Daily Report

Latin America

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Wednesday
9 January 1991

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Compton Calls For International Anti-Coup Effort

FL0801222291 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Jan. 8, CANA—St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton said on Tuesday that the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries must make it clear that a repetition of Monday's coup attempt in Haiti will not be welcomed.

Trinidad and Tobago's External Affairs Minister Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo condemned the coup attempt as a retrograde act at a time when Haiti seemed to be on the long and difficult road to real democratic government, following the recent presidential elections.

Compton, who led an international observer delegation to the December 16 elections in Haiti, said that he was pleased that the Army had acted to put down the coup by feared Duvalierist Roger Lafontant. "I am pleased that the Army has stated its Constitutional role is to protect the results of the elections, and they have acted very correctly by ousting the people who attempted this atrocious act, this rape of democracy," Compton said.

He added that the international community and Caricom "must make it very clear to anyone in Haiti who might attempt such acts that it will not be accepted, and that the full weight of the international community will be brought to bear to ensure that democracy is preserved and respected in Haiti." Said Basdeo of the attempt: "....(it) sought to negate the first free and fair presidential elections in the recent history of that country." He described it as a slap in the face of the international community including Trinidad and Tobago which sent electoral observers and assisted in the electoral process.

At least 40 people are known to have died during the coup attempt.

Bank Warns OECS States of 'Difficult Year'

FL0801201091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1921 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Jan. 8, CANA—The governor of the East Caribbean Central Bank, Dwight Venner, said here that the Persian Gulf crisis could expose the economies of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to tremendous problems.

"The Gulf situation has posed a lot of uncertainty and one is hoping that we will get through this period safely. But what it does point to is that it's going to be a very difficult year ahead," Venner said. He warned that the OECS countries would have to "take all the steps necessary" to protect their open economy. The OECS members are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Venner said that the tourist industry could be hardest hit, "in terms of higher airfares and increase in fuel prices. Tourists may be reluctant to spend more on travel, and therefore we have to watch these developments very carefully," he said. He added that there was great uncertainty in the United States as a result of the recession, "and also consumer spending is slow."

Southern Cone Common Market Accord Being Prepared

PY0801175391 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] An agreement within the framework of the Southern Cone Common Market may be signed in Montevideo next month. According to a report received from Washington, although Brazil has been acting as the representative of the South American countries, the agreement may be signed in Montevideo.

In the next few weeks, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay will present a draft treaty to promote trade with the United States. It must be pointed out that Ambassador (Miguel Bartet), Uruguayan foreign trade representative, will travel to Brasilia today to present the Uruguayan proposal to his Brazilian, Argentine, and Paraguayan counterparts seeking agreement regarding the signing of a final document next month.

Cuba

Alarcon Interviewed on Gulf Situation

FL0801170591

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0200 GMT on 8 January carries live its "Open Agenda" program with journalist Antonio Resillez as host; Pedro Ventura, Cuban television journalist, as participant; and Ricardo Alarcon, first vice foreign minister and Cuban representative to the United Nations, as guest, to discuss the Persian Gulf situation. Resillez invites viewers to call the program with their questions.

After a recorded video background report on the Gulf crisis is shown, Resillez asks Alarcon what characterizes the current world situation brought on by the Persian Gulf events and how this is perceived at the UN Security Council. Alarcon says, "We are facing a truly absurd situation. Very powerful military forces are present. There is an enormous concentration of resources and means of mass destruction in an area where a fundamental, valuable commodity for humankind—oil—is concentrated. This makes it the worst scenario in which to play with fire, to launch this type of war action." Alarcon adds, "The deadline for possibly starting those military hostilities has been announced." Alarcon asserts that in addition to this threat, there is a hope that the conflict can be prevented at the last minute through peaceful and diplomatic means.

Alarcon notes that the 15 January deadline approved by a UN resolution is "a flagrant and clear violation of the UN Charter, a violation of the letter and even spirit of the organization. According to the first sentence of its preamble, the organization was created to protect future generations from the scourge of war."

Responding to a question posed by Ventura, Alarcon explains that the United States has succeeded in getting the necessary majority in the UN Security Council to support irrational moves to corner Iraq and justify the military approach to the solution of the conflict. He explains that not all countries have reacted in the same way the United States has. He refers to French President Mitterrand, who, in a speech, presented a different view of the conflict and gave ideas for a possible peaceful solution. Alarcon says there is a greater concern in Western Europe of a possible war because these countries "have a greater sense of responsibility; I would say that they are more sensitive to public opinion."

He goes on to say that "the United States has taken advantage of an international situation which is convenient—specifically because of the changes taking place in Europe—and has acted with the elation and the encouragement it gets from believing it finds itself in a victorious situation for a long period of time."

Alarcon says, "This approach and strategy that the United States has imposed on the Security Council has, above all, found some resistance within the Council, especially—we have to say—from our country, more than once from the Yemeni delegation, and at various degrees at other times from other countries such as Colombia, Malaysia, and even from some Western countries which are its allies in the Council."

Responding to questions by viewers, Alarcon says the Cubans in the diplomatic mission in Iraq and those who are providing medical services there are doing well and are showing "an exemplary attitude, their morale is high, and they are aware of the role they are playing." He adds that "our government maintains open and frequent contact with our embassy. Our embassy maintains contact with all Cubans in Iraq. We know that, as any Cuban revolutionary does, they are willing to face any situation no matter how difficult it may be. They are sure that they are representing all our people and our fatherland. We can be sure that they will represent us in the most honorable way."

Resillez notes that viewers have expressed concern over the oil situation. Alarcon explains that the impact on oil prices would be unimaginable if war were to break out in the Gulf.

Alarcon asserts that the Security Council should focus on possible ways to solve the crisis without war. He notes that the Security Council may meet after 15 January to reevaluate the situation. He believes a war in the Gulf would be irrational, unnecessary, and catastrophic but adds that "we cannot be sure that the United States is going to act with the same degree of reason, with the same concern for peace, or in the best interest of the world's countries. I would say there are great risks but the possibilities of preventing them also exist. Ultimately, if there is no war it will be because of the pressure of the people, including the U.S. people. The pressure of public opinion could force those who have taken this path to reconsider and use the possibilities that exist to prevent that conflict."

Alarcon refers to the meeting scheduled between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and says one cannot expect that a single meeting can solve such a complex conflict. He says the importance of the meeting lies in the fact that the principle of dialogue between two potential contenders—the United States and Iraq—has been acknowledged. He expresses hope in the solution of the conflict through these means. He says they have been blocked up to now because of U.S. "stubbornness." Alarcon says that even the acknowledgement by the United States of the need to give the impression that it is making efforts to hold talks is positive.

Finally, Alarcon says he plans to return to UN headquarters around 15 January.

Soviet Vice President Sends Message to CTC

FL0901021191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0006 GMT 9 Jan 91

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev has sent through Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov a message of greetings to the Cuban people and especially the working class. While a regular meeting of the National Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] was being held, the Soviet diplomat came to the building at San Carlos and Penalver to express fraternal greetings and the greatest wishes for the success of this brother nation to Pedro Ross Leal, an alternate Politburo member and the CTC secretary general.

Yanayev stated: I have the best memories of Cuba and its people. He said this to Yuriy Petrov when the latter met with the vice president in Moscow recently. Gennadiy Yanayev assumed a post which was established for the first time in the Soviet Union as a result of the recently held Fourth Congress of People's Deputies, which took place in Moscow in December.

Escalona Meets With Soviet Deputies in Mexico

FL0801194191 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] In Mexico, Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has held a meeting with a delegation of Soviet deputies. During the meeting, they discussed the ANPP's upcoming election, its structure, and operation.

Escalona briefed the Soviet deputies on the ANPP election process scheduled for October 1991. It is expected that at least two candidates will run for each one of the almost 15,000 [as heard] electoral districts.

According to a PRENSA LATINA report received in Santo Domingo yesterday, Escalona told the Soviet deputies that at present, 70 percent of ANPP legislators are Cuban Communist Party members, although this is not a requirement for being elected.

Soviet Delegation Tours Medical Research Centers

FL0901015591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The delegation of members of the Supreme Soviet which has been visiting our country since 6 January completed its second day of activities in Havana today. This afternoon People's Deputies (Viktor Shiurupa), the head of the delegation; (Eugeniy K'n); and (Oleg Kiunov) toured some of the areas of the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center.

Biologist Reinaldo Alvarez answered the visitors' questions; they expressed interest in the cost of the center, its research projects, and the training of the specialists who work there. The group's attention was caught by products such as the hepatitis B vaccine; interferon, which has been used successfully to treat more than 20 diseases; and the skin growth factor.

After this visit, the Soviet deputies went to the Ibero-Latin American Nervous System Transplant and Regeneration Center. The center's Deputy Director Dr. Raul Macias explained the work being done there. The vice president of the Supreme Soviet's subcommittee for medical aid to the populace stated that he will personally see to forming closer ties in this field between Cuba and the Soviet Union. This center is working on a group of degenerative diseases of the nervous system.

Raul Castro, Rosales Open Cuban Defense School

FL0801133991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Cuban National Defense School [Colegio de Defense Nacional de Cuba] has been inaugurated at the Maximo Gomez National Academy during a ceremony that was headed by Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] and chief of the General Staff, was in charge of delivering the opening speech at the first course of the Defense School. Div. Gen. Ulises Rosales specified the duties, prospects, and tasks to be carried out by the National Defense School. He also defined the school's characteristics.

Div. Gen. Rosales del Toro asserted that this school will put in practice the ideal of the war of all the people.

Barbados

Sandiford Answers Opposition Critics

FL0801160591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1503 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Jan (CANA)—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford Monday night [7 January] dismissed opposition claims that the nomination of the ruling Democratic Labour Party's [DLP] replacement candidate to controversial former Transport and Works Minister Don Blackman was improper.

"He was duly nominated. All was done in accordance with procedures," Sandiford said of the last-minute nomination of businessman Johnny Tudor as the DLP candidate for the suburban St. Michael East constituency in the January 22 general election. Blackman ended weeks of speculation on Monday by announcing he was quitting parliamentary politics for unspecified personal reasons. The DLP had to rush with Tudor's nomination because Blackman had waited to the last minute to inform the DLP leadership of his decision.

Dr. Richie Haynes, the leader of the opposition National Democratic Party (NDP), said Tudor's nomination occurred past the legal deadline and he was considering taking the matter to court. Sandiford, speaking at a DLP mass meeting in the northern parish and constituency of St. Peter, called Haynes' claim "idle talk." "Everything was in order," he said.

Sandiford devoted his speech to answering criticisms against himself and the government made from the platform of both the NDP, a splinter group of the DLP, and the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). Countering charges that his administration's economic policies were a failure, he referred to official figures showing Barbados had achieved record levels of national ouput, tourist arrivals, housing starts and finishes, per capita income, and labour productivity in 1989.

Sandiford had highlighted the same figures at the first major DLP mass meeting on Sunday night when he said he was using 1989 because it was the last year for which figures were complete. Provisional figures for 1990, however, showed the economy had entered a slowdown.

"Whatever particular index, whatever particular indicator we use, what we see is progress, and development, and advancement, and growth in Barbados," Sandiford said.

"So when they come and speak about failures, they are only giving echo and.... expression to what they would like to happen."

Sandiford, responding to criticisms of his style of leadership, said he was in leadership positions from school days, not because it was his aspiration but because people asked him. He mentioned being president of both the Guild of Undergraduates and the Guild of Graduates of the University of the West Indies, president of the West Indian Students Association in Manchester when he was studying in Britain, and cricket and house captain at high school.

The BLP, describing Sandiford's leadership as weak, had introduced leadership as an issue in the one-and-a-half-week-old campaign. The BLP, as well as the NDP, have been promising strong leadersip.

"This question of leadership is really a non-issue, and the people of Barbados should not really have to take that as part of the political discourse and political discussion at this time," Sandiford said.

"You have different levels (and).... kinds (and) styles of leadership. Mine is consensus government and that means that I discuss and consult with my colleagues, with the different interests and with the individuals in the country and after I hear the varying points of view, I listen carefully,.... balance them, weigh them, and I come to a conclusion and a decision.

"Once I have come to a decision, I expect all persons to agree and fall in behind that decision and if they cannot, we say, well we part company at this stage.

"Richie Haynes (the NDP leader who was a former DLP finance minister) could not understand that because he thought he could tell me what to do and, in the end, he had to go."

Sandiford rejected opposition claims of a breakdown in law and order, amid a recent upsurge in violent crime on the island. Tough- talking BLP and NDP spokesmen have been hammering the government on this issue. Sandiford said there had been a similar crime problem under the former BLP government between 1976 and 1986, and there had been calls then for foreign help to solve unsolved crimes, including murders.

"There is no complete breakdown of law and order in Barbados," Sandiford said. "... The Barbados Labour Party and all opposition circles who try to preach that kind of nonsense.... are merely seeking to create conditions of instability, giving Barbados a bad name in order to pull down our reputation and our image and ultimately to damage our economy and our society."

Sandiford chided the BLP for accusing his government of "squandermania", saying the BLP should tell the public about spending for the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (Carifesta), held here in 1981. He referred to comments by the late BLP Prime Minister Tom Adams that Carifesta was a "rip-off" and a "ghastly financial failure." Sandiford said the true cost had never been told.

"There is no squandermania in Barbados," he said, describing the charge "as the worst possible wrongdoing that you can accuse anyone in public office, particularly someone who is responsible for the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs."

Cayman Islands

British Commission Begins Review of Constitution

FL0801184091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1821 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] George Town, Cayman Islands, 8 Jan (CANA)—The two men assigned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office [FCO] in London to conduct a constitutional review of the Cayman Islands say their commission will not dwell on the topic of independence for this dependent territory.

"To avoid any misunderstanding, this commission has nothing to do with independence or internal self-government," Commissioner Sir Frederick Smith told a press conference Monday [7 January] prior to beginning the five-week study.

He said the commission is "purely to discover what Caymanians want or do not want," in a new constitution. "If we find honestly that there's no need for a change, we will say so," Barbadian Sir Frederick said.

"Our job is to tell the Foreign Office.... what we think you want," said Commissioner Walter Wallace. It will be up to the FCO to then prepare a new constitution based upon recommendations made to them, he added.

The men will conduct interviews and discussions with officials and private citizens, civic organisations, and foreign workers during their review. Of the 25,000 population here, approximately 10,000 are expatriate workers, primarily in the banking and tourist industry. The commissioners will also hold a series of public town meetings to listen to ideas.

Sir Frederick drafted the present Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution in 1980 while Wallace was the sole constitutional commissioner for St. Helena in 1987.

Dominica

Charles Reaffirms Desire To Serve 3d Term

FL0701180691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1636 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 7 Jan (CANA)—Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, now 71 years old, has dismissed renewed speculation that she will relinquish office and not serve a full third term as she has promised.

"If it were true that I was going to retire from active politics this year, what it would hold for me is a beautiful future of no worries and no problems. But that is completely untrue," she said on national radio.

The Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) leader not only reaffirmed her commitment to serve for the next five years, but explained that she would remain in active politics with the DFP even though she does not again run for office.

"I'm going to be even more involved in politics after that, because I intend to stay there and look after my party and help my party to go on winning elections time and time again," Charles said.

Serving a third term beginning May last year, after winning a slender one-seat majority in 1990 elections, Charles has been urged by political opponents to resign and will shortly face a no-confidence motion brought by the opposition United Workers Party. But the veteran politician countered on radio that the ruling DFP is the party which has done the most for Dominica's development.

Government is concerned about assisting the small business sector take off further, through the introduction of a venture capital fund, she said: "Many people are self-employed here, and to allow for small businesses to be able to benefit, we have considered putting in the venture capital fund." Plans for the fund are advanced and government is awaiting the services of an expert to help lay the groundwork for establishment of the facility, she said.

Charles also emphasized her government's housing policy, which includes setting up a housing trust fund for low-cost housing. The prime minister explained that funds obtained from the sale of a just-concluded housing scheme in the capital would go into the housing trust fund.

Concerned Over Drug Problem

FL0801015491 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 7 Jan (CANA)—Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said Saturday [6 January] she is concerned about the drug problem in Dominica, especially a reported progression from marijuana to harder drugs like cocaine.

"We are very concerned about it. We realise that persons who are making so much money out of it don't care whether the country goes to hell while they are using this system of bringing money into the country," Charles said on a radio call-in programme Saturday.

"We must get rid of it, otherwise this country will sink," warned Charles, adding that Caribbean cooperation is a critical factor in the war against drugs. She said her government was working hard with other members in the Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS) to ensure proper training of police and customs officers. Legislation was also recently passed in parliament here as part of efforts to tackle the drug problem.

Charles chastised drug dealers for not being concerned about young people and the ruining of their lives.

"Unfortunately, there are persons who are in position to attempt to stop it and who make no attempt to do so," she added without elaborating.

Dominican Republic

Armed Forces Chief Reports Haitian Border 'Calm'

FL0801172591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Elias Wessin y Wessin, the Armed Forces secretary, has stated that the situation along the Dominican-Haitian border is calm. The Armed Forces chief stated that patrols in the area have been increased in view of events in Haiti.

Wessin made this statement during an interview he held in his office after it was learned in Santo Domingo that the coup headed by Roger Lafontant, an ex-minister of the Duvalier regime, had failed.

Armed Forces Secretary Elias Wessin asserted that the Dominican-Haitian border is completely calm. He added that patrols have been increased but that no reinforcements were ordered.

IMF Group Arrives To Renegotiate Foreign Debt

FL0801192291 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] An IMF mission arrived in Santo Domingo yesterday. The IMF mission and Dominican Government officials will hold negotiations aimed at achieving a foreign debt renegotiation agreement.

The IMF mission is comprised of (Olav Gronely), president; (Mark Terrin); (Garkis Madeiros); (Mark Precious); (?Malan Woodpetki); and Mrs. (Carmen Sanavia), the IMF mission secretary.

A Dominican Government committee welcomed the IMF mission at the Las Americas International Airport. The Dominican Government committee was headed by Luis Manuel Piantini, Dominican Government represenative to the IMF. It was not established how long the IMF mission will stay in the country or when the negotiations will begin.

Grenada

Foreign Minister Jones Tenders Resignation

FL0701133591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2044 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, 5 Jan (CANA)—Grenada's foreign minister, Ben Jones, has tendered his resignation, officials of his party reported Saturday. The move came after The National Party [TNP] headed by Jones voted to pull out of a coalition arrangement with Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite's National Democratic Congress [NDC].

TNP secretary Paul Lander confirmed Jones' resignation and said the other TNP member of the government, Alleyne Walker, was expected to quit on Monday. Lander attributed the decision to withdraw from the coalition arrangement—going back to last March—to a controversial new debt service levy and a range of taxes announced by Finance Minister George Brizan last month.

The government has slapped a 10 per cent levy on salaries above 12,000 East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) to help it meet debt commitments. Grenadea has a national debt of 280 million dollars. Lander told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY "the manifesto of the NDC said under no circumstances they would put any form of taxes on personal income." He said the previous government used to pay 33-35 million dollars a year towards its debts without resorting to a levy, while the current administration was spending 22 million.

The budget presented in Parliamanet December 27 included a range of taxes, with drivers among those hard hit. Lan ler said TNP felt "13 taxes at one time were too much" and the party could no longer "support an accommodation with the NDC."

Jones and Walker joined Prime Minister Brathwaite after a March 13, 1990 general election in which no party emerged with a clear victory. Jones' first portfolio was agriculture. In a cabinet re-shuffle announced last month—but implemented at the start of 1991—he took over foreign affairs.

The 66 year old lawyer had been appointed deputy prime minister in January 1989, under the ailing Herbert Blaize. He took over the prime ministership when Blaize died in December 1989. But his party made a poor showing in the election.

The accommodation it reached with Brathwaite worried some TNP members, but Jones insisted that his party remained independent. Ben Andrews, who says he heads the progressive wing of TNP, was among those pressing Jones to end the pact. TNP officials said Jones abstained from the vote on ending the accommodation. They reported two members of the executive voted to continue the pact and 13 were against.

Well-placed sources reported Jones and Brathwaite had discussions on TNP's move at the prime minister's office at the Botanical Gardens in St. George's, the capital. They said Jones had handed in his letter of resignation, but Brathwaite's position on the pull-out remained unclear. Political analysts here said Brathwaite might resume responsibility for foreign affairs, a portfolio he shed at the start of the year.

If Brathwaite loses the support of both TNP members in Parliament, his government could easily survive. It would mean nine government supporters to six opposition members in Parliament. After the election, two Grenada United Labour Party MP's joined Brathwaite.

Brathwaite: Resignation 'No Problem'

FL0701144591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2024 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Richard Simon Report]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, 6 Jan (CANA)—Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite said the resignation of Foreign Minister Ben Jones presented no problems for his government.

"It will not affect us in terms of it going on," Brathwaite said in his first reaction to the resignation announced on Saturday.

"The NDC (ruling National Democratic Congress) has nine sure seats and we are quite sure we can carry on quite effectively."

The National Party (TNP), led by Jones, announced at the weekend it had voted to withdraw from the government in which it had two members—Jones and Alleyne

Walker. Brathwaite, however, rejected the TNP's suggestion it had entered a coalition with the NDC, after general elections last March left the NDC one seat short of a parliamentary majority.

Brathwaite said he had held discussions with Jones in a personal capacity about forming a government and not with the TNP. The NDC had obtained a majority before Jones accepted Brathwaite's offer, after a Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) parliamentarian defected.

"I never considered the government a coalition because I had reservations about going into a coalition because if one partner pulled out, then Grenada would be in a state of confusion today," Brathwaite said. He said Jones resigned because he was asked to by his party.

"That will not affect my relationship with Mr. Jones personally," he added. Brathwaite said if Jones wished to rejoin the government, he would be welcome.

Jones, in a document released last month by the TNP to mark the first anniversary of the death of its former leader and Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, expressed some dissatisfaction with the pace of action under the government.

"Clearly, we have not taken off," he wrote. "... The forward movement has been halted and there appears to be a loss of confidence generally."

Trade Unions To Protest New Tax Laws

FL0901022991 Bridgetown CANA in English 0220 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada, 8 Jan (CANA)—The Grenada Trades Union Council says it is looking at alternatives to the 1991 budget to be presented to government following what the Council says was a cordial meeting on Monday with Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite and other members of cabinet.

President of the powerful Public Workers Union and leader of the three-union joint negotiating team, Lurett Clarkson, says the UEMF [expansion unknown] registered their concerns over the enacted tax laws and their effects on the labour force.

"We wanted to register very strongly on behalf of workers that we are not comfortable with the tax laws as is, specifically the national debt service levy," she said. The government introduced the 10 percent levy on salaries to meet the national debt payments.

Said Clarkson: "When (the new taxes) are taken into consideration, and moved out from the workers' salary, the workers standard of living and quality of life will definitely deteriorate." She said the prime minister promised a fair hearing of the Council and a review of the bills so that the workers would benefit when the alternatives are presented and discussed.

MBPM Criticizes Government Fiscal Measures

FL0701190591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1807 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, 7 Jan (CANA)—The opposition Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) has criticised Grenada's 1991 fiscal measures as a "hold up" budget.

"The recent budget presented by the (ruling National Democratic Congress) NDC must be another first when one considers the number of tax measures that have been introduced," MPBM said.

The party, contending the measures were introduced with the surprise of a bandit attack or hold-up, said the days ahead are going to be "very difficult indeed."

"The Grenadian people were deceived into believing that if they voted for the NDC, income tax would not be re-introduced," MBPM said.

"Should Grenadian citizens be called upon to pay for the mismanagement, corruption, sell-out, and shady deals of past governments since 1983, that have sunken us into this heavy debt," the party asked?

It called for efforts to reschedule Grenada's debt, incentives to export ventures, incentives for greater productivity in agriculture, and a cut in the "alarmingly high level of importation of food stuff and other unnecessary commodities."

The MPBM consists of supporters of the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who led a 1979 coup that initiated what became known as the Grenada Revolution. Bishop was executed in 1983 by hardliners after a power struggle.

Haiti

Coup Attempt Sparks Street Violence, Casualties

Authorities Report 100 Dead

FL0901122491 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Haitian authorities say the death toll has risen to at least 100 as sporadic violence continues to linger in the country following Monday's [7 January] unsuccessful coup attempt. The street barricades are being removed, but the killing has apparently not ended. Yesterday police dispersed a large crowd of people apparently trying to storm the archbishop's residence in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Port-au-Prince Devastated

FL0901014491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] After the extraordinary events of 7 January, Port-au-Prince, marked by yesterday's disorder, looks

today like a city which had been subjected to major shock, as if it had been ravaged by an earthquake. In fact it was men, the hands of men, that destroyed what others took time and pains to build. The trunks of uprooted trees, burned out cars, and burning tires lie in the roads and a thick coat of black ashes and pieces of broken glass are on the streets. The streets of Port-au-Prince are still obstructed this morning and the traffic is heavy in some quarters. This is the state of the city that hardly breathes, where the stores remain closed. Commerce has probably been the main victim of yesterday's mad destruction. It has been said that several million dollars' worth of property has been lost.

This morning the focus is especially on the old cathedral, a historical monument of great value that was set on fire. The old cathedral, built in 1821, had been under repair, under the supervision and responsibility of the Institute for the Safeguard of the National Inheritance. [passage omitted]

Calm has come again to some quarters of Port-au-Prince, but the country is still traumatized by Roger Lafontant's attempted coup d'etat and by the violent popular uprising that followed it. At least 50 are dead, including 40 in the capital. The State University Hospital of Haiti has reported that over 50 wounded have been registered there. [passage omitted]

Destruction Detailed

FL0901005791 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1345 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] During the night of 6-7 January, Mrs. Trouillot was forced to resign her office, and was held hostage for 10 hours by Roger Lafontant's men. [passage omitted]

The aborted coup d'etat is, in fact, a further victory for the Saint-Jean Bosco priest, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was freely elected by a landslide vote at the polls on 16 December. Though Father Aristide is dealing with a very difficult dilemma, the failed coup actually represents a reaffirmation of the people's confidence in him.

President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide offered his congratulations yesterday to the members of the Haitian Armed Forces—a bow, honor, respect to the military, he said, who advantageously reversed the situation. Father Aristide refused, however, to comment on the possible appointment of his government before the official date determined by the Constitution, 7 February. [passage omitted]

It was one month before the president of the Republic, elected in the 16 December elections, took office, a month before the fifth anniversary of the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier, that Dr. Roger Lafontant attempted his bid for power, an attempt referred to by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE permanent correspondent in Haiti, Dominique Levanti, as Dr. Lafontant's last fight for honor. Roger Lafontant is now in jail at the Penitencier National [the main prison in Port-au-Prince], along with the other men involved in this attempted coup.

A well-informed military source strongly denied to AFP that it was the Army's intention to expel Dr. Lafontant from the country, as some rumors indicate. The provisional government of Mrs. Ertha Pascal-Trouillot, which has been back in its offices since yesterday, will be responsible for deciding the fate of Roger Lafontant and his accomplices in the attempted coup.

The Haitian population has undoubtedly played a major role in inverting the situation. From 0330-0400 on 7 January, barricades were set up almost everywhere in Port-au-Prince—in the metropolitan area as well as in various cities of the provinces. Very early yesterday morning, the population had begun to voice its anger over this coup d'etat, and had started to accuse Haiti's Armed Forces of collaborating in the coup to restore a Duvalierist to power.

At least 38 people died, perhaps more, according to the State University Hospital. This is an inexact count based on the number of people who were burned, and whose corpses were reduced to ashes. According to the health centers, however, 40 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in Port-au-Prince. Most of the victims were former Macoutes, militiamen, or Roger Lafontant henchmen who lost their lives at the hands of the people when they were lynched, stoned, beaten to death, or burned alive, some by collar torture: burning tires placed around the neck.

A significant number of people were killed in Delmas 32, not far from the Union for National Reconciliation building, the office of Roger Lafontant's party, founded in Port-au-Prince after his return, and after the Vertaillis Sibert congress. These people were killed by militiamen. The party's building was destroyed by the angry population. In addition to demolished houses, many stores were destroyed, as well as numerous symbolic structures: the office of the Duvalierist newspaper, PETIT SAMEDI SOIR; the residence of Professor Hubert de Ronceray in Fontamara, a southern area of Port-au-Prince; the house of the apostolic nuncio; the Vatican Embassy in Haiti; the house belonging to the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Monseigneur Francois Wolf Ligonde; the premises of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti; and the ancient Cathedral of Port-au-Prince. The Cathedral of Port-au-Prince is a historical monument, burned yesterday in the turmoil of this uprooting movement by the population.

In addition to the demolition of symbolic buildings, many commercial businesses were plundered or randomly destroyed by the population. In Lalue, the entire area was laid waste by the crowd: Cabinet Edouard, Lalue supermarket, the meat market, the Texaco gas station, O Market, Caraibe Market, Lori Boutique, Carnaval Ice-Cream, the Immigration Office and Ministry of the Interior, Chicken Plus, Horizon Tour, Nouveau Pret-a-Porter, Image Technic, Thecnicouleur, Florilege, Ma Pharmacie, Archadia, Bel Bagay, Fleur de Cactus,

Exodus Fleur, Inedit, and many other stores in Lalue and Grand-Rue. [passage omitted].

Political Leader Requests Protection for Aristide

FL0801191591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The president of the Haitian Movement of the Revolutionary Union [Movimiento de Unidad Revolucionaria Haitiana], MUR, has requested international protection for Haitian President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide.

(Ike Michele) added that the United Nations, the OAS, Socialist International, and Amnesty International must condemn Roger Lafontant's brutal aggression. Lafontant was defeated by the Haitian Army.

In a statement he made in the Dominican Republic, the Haitian political leader said that clean elections were held in Haiti, that these elections were observed by international organizations, and that the election process will be implemented as planned.

Jamaica

Gunmen Attack Home of National Security Minister

FL0801205591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2002 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 8 Jan (CANA)—Jamaica's national security minister, K.D. Knight, reported that his home was attacked by gunmen early Tuesday morning. Neither the minister nor his family was injured in the incident.

Knight told the Caribbean News Agency [CANA] that two men came to the house at about 5:30 AM and told the constable on duty that they wanted to see him. The officer refused, saying it was "too early," and they should return later. The men escaped after an exchange of gunfire with the guard, who was unhurt.

According to the constable, one of the men said he was a former bodyguard to the minister, while the other claimed he worked closely with the minister at his downtown Kingston offices. Knight, who could not guess at a motive for the attack, said he was "not remotely scared. It cannot in any way change me from what I have set out to achieve," he declared.

Since assuming the national security portfolio, Knight has often said he will run the drug dealers and criminals "into the ground." He has also stated publicly several times his support for capital punishment. Only recently he indicated that hanging of 250 inmates on death row might resume as early as March. He also actively campaigned for the establishment of an independent unit to investigate complaints of police brutality and excesses.

Government Welcomes End of Haitian Coup Attempt

FL0801143591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1333 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 8 Jan (CANA)—The Jamaican Government on Tuesday expressed "deep satisfaction" with the Armed Forces' crushing of a coup attempt in Haiti. In a statement issued after a cabinet meeting, Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley said that reports of the attempt to topple the government Monday were greeted with the utmost dismay and abhorrence, having regard to the fact that the Haitian people voted on December 16 for the establishment of a democratic political order.

"It is quite clear that the full support given to the Haitian Government and the Haitian people in pursuit of the goal of free and fair elections, by the Caribbean Community [Caricom], Latin American governments, and the wider international community were important elements in ensuring that the commencement of the democratic process was not aborted," he said.

Manley said that the Jamaica Government was now more than ever determined to give the fullest possible assistance to the Haitian Government and the people of Haiti.

"We therefore like to use this opportunity to reiterate earlier calls for the hemispheric community, particularly the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations, the Internatonal Monetary Fund, and the World Bank to give urgently the assistance required by the soon-to-be-installed administration of President Elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide."

The coup attempt by Duvalierist forces left at least 40 dead. Some of the dead were mere charred remains on pavements while others were shot or hacked to death by machetes.

The coup attempt lasted only about nine hours, until the military stormed the Presidential Palace, where a former interior minister under the Duvalier regime, Roger Lafontant and about a dozen supporters took control shortly after midnight.

The statement said that in light of the coup attempt the second meeting of the Haiti Caricom Joint Technical Group which will be convened shortly takes on added significance. Ultimately, it added, only the most rapid development of the Haitian economy can guarantee social justice and stability and so underpin the democratic process which has now become a common feature of the countries of the hemisphere.

The Jamaica prime minister congratulated the Haitian Government and people for preserving the start of the democratic process. He vowed that in his capacity as chairman of Caricom he will seek to mobilise the continuing support of Caricom for Haiti and the aspirations of its people.

El Salvador

Two Prosecutors Resign From Jesuit Murder Case

PA0901135691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1216 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador—Attorney General Roberto Mendoza has promised that the resignation of two prosecutors in the trial of nine military officers allegedly involved in the massacre of six Jesuit priests in November 1989 will not affect the legal process.

Mendoza explained that the resignation of (Phillip Blanco) and Henry Campos will not change the legal process against Colonel Guillermo Benavides, the highest-ranking officer arrested since 17 January 1990 for his alleged participation in the crime, and three other officers and four soldiers. One of the military officers is still at large. Mendoza clarified that the resignation of the two prosecutors was not due to threats or pressures, but simply because they want to go back to private practice.

The trial of the Salvadoran officers could go as long as four or five more months due to delays, the official said, without going into details. A judicial source explained that the resignation of Blanco and Campos will set back the trial because the newly appointed prosecutors—Edwin Bonilla and Jose Mauricio Rodriguez—are not thoroughly familiar with the case. The source said that the two prosecutors [not identified] said they were annoyed over Mendoza's decision preventing them from making statements to the press on the investigation of the multiple murder, in which two maids were also killed.

Defense Official Urges U.S. To 'Reconsider' Aid

PA0801163991 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister General Orlando Zepeda has urged the U.S. Congress to reconsider the conditions imposed on the military aid for El Salvador and to realize that its pressure should be directed at the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in the wake of the assassination of the U.S. military personnel last week. According to the general, the murder of the U.S. citizens confirms that the FMLN is not committed to peace.

General Zepeda described the killing of the three U.S. citizens as a vile murder by the FMLN that should cause the U.S. Congress to reconsider its position on both the military aid and the process of dialogue.

[Begin Zepeda recording] We hope that the United States, and especially the congressmen who sought to tie the hands of, or force the government and the Armed Forces into a dialogue with the FMLN by establishing conditions and cutting their aid...[changes thought] I believe that it is now time for them to reconsider, because we are beginning to realize just what the FMLN is. [end recording]

The deputy defense minister also emphasized that military action is no longer a viable option for the FMLN. Its prospects have been eliminated; its only option is the political path, he said.

[Begin Zepeda recording] We are going to continue the dialogue. We are forcing the FMLN to seek a reasonable solution to this conflict. That is the purpose of dialogue. We do not have to fear it. I do not believe that the government is planning to withdraw; on the contrary, it must intensify its efforts to force the FMLN to continue the talks, but with more sincerity. So far, we do not believe that sincerity is projected through these offensives, these murders....[changes thought] In other words, the FMLN continues to pursue the same objective—to take power. [end recording]

Gen. Zepeda also expressed the opinion that the guerrillas will not turn over those responsible for the three deaths in Lolotique, because, he said: The FMLN—a gang of terrorists—is not capable of submitting itself to the Salvadoran courts. He also reiterated that even though the government and the Armed Forces are convinced that the military path is not the proper solution for the country, whatever action is taken will depend on the guerrillas.

The deputy minister made these statements when he presided over the ceremony to inaugurate a drive to be carried out by the IPSA [National Armed Forces Social Security Institute] throughout the month in honor of the community of retirees. The drive, to be called Senior Citizens Month, will be coordinated by the National Secretariat of the Family.

Rebel Commander Predicts Peace Agreement in 1991

PA0901012491 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 7 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] One of the chief commanders of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front has predicted that 1991 will be the year when the government and the guerrillas will reach, through negotiations, concrete agreements on peace in the country.

Commander Miguel Mendoza said that the government has been forced to make adjustments in the Armed Forces after the guerrillas' November military maneuver, which neutralized both the counterinsurgency battalions and the Air Force.

"This year begins with a neutralized Air Force and a practically disorganized Army," the rebel commander said, adding that this will force the government to make adjustments in the military institution. This matter is being discussed in the negotiations between the government and guerrilla delegations.

According to Mendoza, a member of the joint command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, the course of the armed conflict might change in 1991. The rebel commander said that the negotiating process is being made more dynamic by the military actions in November and that is why important and decisive moments in the negotiation process are at hand.

Mendoza has also referred to the death of the three U.S. servicemen in the country, saying that it would be a pity if the U.S. Government changes its policy regarding the negotiations that should be continued to end the conflict.

"It would be a grave error if it takes a step back in its policy," the rebel commander said. He justified the death of the advisers, stating that it has been proven that they were flying in a helicopter gunship at a low altitude in a war zone where rebel and government forces have sustained bloody clashes.

The rebel leader said that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has committed itself to respecting the lives of the U.S. citizens in the country, but if they directly interfere in the conflict, they will be dealt with in the same manner as the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

Mendoza also spoke about the use of the surface-to-air weapons the rebels have, asking how is it possible that other governments worry about the use of missiles and say nothing against the Armed Forces' helicopters and planes which open fire on the civilian population.

Despite this, the rebel commander said, we are willing to continue holding a dialogue to reach concrete agreements at the negotiating table and we hope the U.S. Government does not make a mistake in its policy and intensify the war when the prospects for peace are great.

Radio Venceremos Reviews 1990 Military Activities

PA0801150891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The following is our annual military summary for 1990, during which we inflicted 6,323 casualties on troops of the anti-democratic Armed Forces. The year 1990 was characterized by impressive political and military victories.

The Salvadoran people's urgent need to open their doors to a democratic revolution that will end the profound crisis that the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government has brought upon the nation has facilitated the growth of our military units and the emergence of a broad consensus among political and social forces that believe that the Armed Forces are the main obstacle to peace.

The national demand for demilitarization and victories by the National Army for Democracy have yielded satisfactory results in the year that has just ended. The struggle of all political and social groups and the military actions of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] have forced the government and the Armed Forces to sit at the negotiating table under the mediation of the United Nations.

Such peace-seeking efforts have received international recognition. The international community has also reiterated the urgent need for real negotiations to end our country's conflict. A 50 percent reduction in U.S. military aid for the Salvadoran Government was the most eloquent evidence that not even the Bush administration itself trusts a criminal Army that has been accused by the entire world for its numerous murders and that it does not trust its ability to militarily achieve a victory over the FMLN either.

The La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] colonels myopia, however, is so great that they are trying to remain entrenched behind impunity by promoting to the rank of general the principal culprits of genocide in our country.

The year 1990 fully revealed the military shortcomings of the strategic and tactical leadership of the Armed Forces. Our people's army managed to neutralize the main bastion of the anti-democratic Army, its Air Force, the war aircraft of which have begun to routinely fall.

We closed 1990 with an impressive defeat of the criminal army. Two of its main elite battalions were broken up by our National Army for Democracy. In Chalatenango, the Bracamonte Battalion literally ran out of national territory as it ran; it was shamefully forced to seek refuge in Honduran territory. Meanwhile, the Atonal Battalion was disbanded in Usulutan Department during our successful nationwide campaign called punish the anti-democratic armed forces.

The National Army for Democracy forces inflicted 6,323 casualties on the enemy, including 109 officers and 178 noncommissioned officers in 1990. This large number of casualties shows our growth and military capability and the misfortune and profound crisis that our army has brought upon the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The low combat morale among government troops and the boldness and courage of our combatants led to the battlefield surrender of 89 soldiers in 1990.

In 1990, the Salvadoran Air Force also suffered harsh blows: 40 of its aircraft were destroyed or brought down by our forces and 85 other aircraft were damaged. Our military campaign called punish the anti-democratic armed forces, which started on 20 November 1990, ended the impunity of the criminal Salvadoran Air Force pilots. At least 15 of its officers were put out of combat. The neutralization of air support has affected the morale of infantry troops.

That is not all: 37 military trucks and 18 armored vehicles were also destroyed last year. In 1990 we seized 445 weapons in combat that are already in the hands of

the new combatants of the National Army for Democracy. The war economy of ARENA followers suffered loses in the millions, because 1,315 high-voltage utility poles were sabotaged. The 5 November and Cerron Grande Dams, and the Jalacatal Electric Plant, in Eastern El Salvador, were also sabotaged.

The dynamics of the military conflict in El Salvador favor the people's forces. In 1991 we are determined to continue to defeat elite battalions and the military plans of the Jesuits' assassins. We are determined to conquer the democratic rights of the Salvadoran people. Our military actions will maintain this goal on the battlefield and at the negotiation table.

Late Dec, Early Jan Clashes Reported

PA0701224291

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of military actions that took place on 28, 29, 31 December and 1-4 January as reported by (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos, San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA, and San Salvador Canal Doce Television.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0200 GMT on 30 December broadcasts a 10-minute report stating that "units of the National Army for Democracy between 2245 on 28 December and 1500 on 29 December carried out an operation that covered the northern area of Apopa and Las Flores neighborhood, San Salvador Department." The report adds: "Our successful operation went as follows:

"On 28 December, at 2245, units of the National Army for Democracy carried out a surprise attack on a section of Libertad Battalion of the 1st Infantry Brigade that was maintaining positions near El Angel de Apopa neighborhood. Later nearby patrols that came to reinforce enemy troops were surprised by our grenade and rifle fire. A small maneuver was carried out against them and a fierce clash ensued. During this operation, the enemy sustained 19 casualties, six dead and 13 wounded, including two sergeants and a corporal."

This report adds that "our forces also recovered the following war materiel: One M-16 rifle, two sets of equipment [not further identified], 10 grenades for M-79 grenade launchers, six packs [as heard], one claymore mine, two mine wires, three cartridge slips for M-60 [not further identified], 500 rounds of 5.56-mm ammunition, hand grenades, and other materiel."

The report adds that "on 29 December other units of our National Army for Democracy occupied a stretch of the Northern Trunk Highway between km 17 and km 18 at 0500. At 0800 we erected a barricade and paralyzed traffic until 1230." It says that other units "opened fire against two Bracamonte Battalion companies in northern Las Flores neighborhood at 0800. We dislodged them from their positions after two and a half hours of fighting and inflicted six more casualties on that battalion. Our units fought another unit of the same battalion on km 17 of the Northern Trunk Highway whose members fled toward the detour of Las Flores neighborhood carrying away with them three casualties who were later evacuated by the Red Cross." The report states that "we inflicted a total of 28 casualties on the anti-democratic forces."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1600 GMT on 3 December broadcasts a two-minute report stating that "on 31 December at 1900 a Salvadoran Armed Forces helicopter overflew Perquin in this Morazan department to sow panic among the population who were involved in year-end activities. Our units of the National Army for Democracy opened machinegun and rifle fire against it. This aircraft immediately left the area; we do not yet know whether it was damaged."

This report adds that "on 1 December at 0445 two A-37 planes of the Salvadoran Armed Forces overflew Morazan Department and bombed the foothills of (Pericon Hill) and the vicinity of the town of Arambala to sow terror and panic among the new settlements in this department."

The report states that "we reaffirmed that the FMLN, in view of these bombing actions against populated areas, reserves the right to fight those aircraft with all kinds of weapons, including missiles aimed at those murderous aircraft that are daily dropping tons of bombs on Salvadorans day after day."

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish on 31 December carries a 200-word report stating that "presumed urban guerrilla commando units have planted a powerful explosive device at the Development and Investment Bank at West First Street and North Seventh Avenue across from the Central Reserve Bank. The attack caused considerable structural damage. This is the second sabotage on this institution in less than one month. Another dynamite attack took place at the Savings Bank at South 43rd Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard killed civilian Lisandro Sergio Pinto." It adds that this attack also caused considerable structural damage.

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 3 January on page 2 carries a 220-word report stating that "terrorists in the evening of 31 December fired at a pharmacy in the Zona Rosa area of the capital while the 'truce' proclaimed by the guerrillas was still in force." It adds that area residents condemned the attack that confirmed that the FMLN cannot be trusted, as Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce had warned not long ago.

This report states that "according to an official report issued by COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee] the terrorist fire claimed no casualties, but caused structural damage to the building. The attackers traveled on a white minibus, and the license plate could not be read. The shots came from .45-caliber and 9-mm pistols."

Finally, the report cites the official communique as stating that "60-year old Mauricio Solis was killed by a AK-47 rifle shot at 1800 on 31 December after being forced out of his house in San Jose Las Mesitas Canton, on the outskirts of the city of Chalatenango" just for being the father of a sergeant of the Armed Forces.

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 3 January on page 29 carries a 300-word report stating that the FMLN "at dawn on 31 December fired three shots from an RPG-7 grenade launcher at the presidency that hit the soccer field of the Armed Forces Telecommunications Instruction Center, CITFA, formerly the El Zapote Garrison." It adds that this attack, which claimed no casualties but caused structural damage, took place amid a so-called truce called by the FMLN.

The report also cites COPREFA as reporting several clashes during the so-called truce as follows: In Chalatenango, druing a clash with the Atlacatl Battalion, three FMLN members and a soldier were killed; on Queqeishque Hill, one subversive and a soldier was killed and one soldier was wounded; on (Vivo Hill), an FMLN combatant was killed and five were wounded during a clash with the Atlacatl Battalion; in the vicinity of El Zapotal, one rebel was killed; and in El Coyolar and La Laguna, seven FMLN combatants were wounded.

This report adds that "at 0150 on 1 January FMLN units attacked positions of the 1st Infantry Brigade with M-79 grenade launchers and rifle fire in El Roblar Canton, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan." It adds that in repelling the FMLN attackers, a soldier was wounded and later taken to the military hospital.

Finally, this report says that the Atlacatl Battalion dismantled an FMLN mobile camp in the vicinity of the (La Sirena) Stream, San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 3 January broadcasts a one-minute report stating that "at least 15 soldiers were seriously wounded in the afternoon of 2 January when a grenade accidentally exploded inside the military vehicle that was in the vicinity of the San Francisco Sugar Mill, Aguilares Jurisdiction. COPREFA reported that the accident occurred when troops of the 1st Infantry Brigade were relieving other troops in the area. It is not yet known whether any soldiers were killed. Residents and military sources of Aguilares claimed, however, that this was actually a rebel ambush and not an accident."

Finally, San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 5 January broadcasts a one-minute report stating that "fighting between the Army and the FMLN has waned in the past few hours in this capital and in the countryside. COPREFA reported that there were only sporadic clashes in Chalatenango and Usulutan between the evening of 3 January and dawn of 4 January. COPREFA added that an Atlacatl soldier was wounded when the rebels attacked him as he was patrolling Las Vueltas, where the troops seized a LAW [light antitank weapon] rocket launcher after the clashes. Also, the Armed Forces reported that Navy units repelled an FMLN attack on Jiquilisco that yielded no casualties on either party."

Guatemala

Cerezo Views Upcoming Central American Summit

PA0901032791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1722 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by Miguel Conde]

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo told NOTIMEX today that Central America will ask Mexico to guarantee the supply of petroleum and to grant longer payment terms. In the meeting to be held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of southern Chiapas State on 10 and 11 January, the Central American presidents will ask Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to support democratization in the region.

Cerezo said Central America will ask Mexico to change its "role of the judge in the international community to that of supporter of the democratization processes in the region."

Cerezo said that the presidential summit will outline a new phase of development for the region, based on multilateralism and on the joint expansion of its markets. By promoting the Tuxtla Gutierrez meeting, he added, Mexico turns its eyes towards the south and establishes a fundamental element in its relations with Central America. "Mexico has a very short way to go to have an almost perfect relationship with Central America," Cerezo said. "Perhaps relations with El Salvador are somewhat cool, but I think that with this initiative such a situation will be definitely overcome," Cerezo said.

Cerezo predicted that the possibility of complementing the Mexican and Central American economies will show that "we are looking in other directions and in due time can lay the groundwork for a greater increase in trade."

In the opinion of the Guatemalan president, the summit will set "the precedent for a clear spirit of integration aimed at promoting new forms of economic and social development based on a multilateral relationship." He stressed that the international situation demands multilateral cooperation to satisfy needs and to participate in a broader and much more developed world market.

Regarding the possible free trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, he said the Salinas de Gortari administration's promotion of the agreement had been a "daring" move.

The meeting with the Central American presidents shows that even though it has solved its problems with the industrialized countries, "Mexico politically thinks about the need to integrate itself with the south and to ally itself with its natural partners."

Cerezo proposed that Mexico and Central America take advantage of their markets as a basis of support to face the international competition that will result from the changes in the economic factors. He explained that the presidential meeting will help establish a "work agenda" for the beginning of a basic agreement for bilateral trade as well as trade with Central America as a whole. He said this is being done with Mexico because Mexico and the United States have decided to establish new international rules of the game and Central America wants to participate in those big markets.

"In Central America we realize that we cannot move ahead alone and Latin America cannot face the challenges of the modernization of its economies and political systems if it does not have the mentality of forming part of a region," he added. The Mexican initiative recognizes the new vision of establishing large development regions, one of which could begin to be formed among Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, and Colombia, with Spain as the door of access to Europe.

He said that this new vision should first of all be directed at the expansion of markets and at the unification of productive mechanisms so as to complement the region's economies and make them more efficient to compete in the world market. We can use the Mexican experience in finding a model for industrial development to enter the international market. In this way we can adapt it to find new formulas for development, Cerezo added.

In the [words indistinct] and the instability of the market are decisive for the Central American development process, he said.

Cerezo, who will turn over his office on 14 January to President-elect Jorge Serrano Elias, winner of the 6 December runoff elections, said that the San Jose pact guarantees an adequate supply of petroleum to the region. "All the development possibilities in the region are dependent on the continuity of the democratic processes and the culmination of the peace processes, which will be strengthened if there is a political agreement with Mexico, Spain, and Venezuela," he added.

He said the idea is to promote in the international community the strengthening of democratically elected governments so that dialogue and negotiation will end the wars still continuing in the Central American region. He said those three countries would serve as "sponsors" to obtain much more vigorous support from the international community to attain those objectives. "Rather than an attitude of judging and systematic criticism, we need support to instill confidence in the democratization processes," Cerezo added.

Nicaragua

Soviet Arms Shipment Said To Arrive at Corinto

PA0901021291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The arrival of an arsenal, apparently from the USSR, at the Nicaraguan Port of Corinto on the Pacific coast has alarmed the population in that part of the country. This was reported today by LA PRENSA, a daily owned by President Violeta Chamorro.

Witnesses told LA PRENSA that a combat vehicle known as "BRT," two military trucks with radar and communications equipment, as well as a Soviet-made electric plant are currently in Port of Corinto's facilities.

According to the daily, the armored vehicles entered Corinto on 27 December, presumably on board the Soviet vessel Nikolai Turpin. The destination of the military equipment, however, has still not been disclosed.

The source added that the words "economic assistance for Mauricio Cuadra" are written on the combat vehicle.

According to LA PRENSA, the people of Corinto are asking: Why do these type of shipments continue arriving in Corinto if there is no war in the country?

In a recent communique published in Managua, sources from the Soviet Foreign Ministry confirmed that the USSR has not sent arms shipments to Nicaragua since 1989.

Chamorro Favors Regional Free Trade Agreement

PA0801181691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0045 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by Sonia Gonzalez]

[Text] Managua, 7 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro told NOTIMEX today that the Nicaraguan Government is open to and agrees with the signing of a free trade agreement between Central America and Mexico "as soon as possible."

She added that in this context she will try to renegotiate the Nicaraguan debt of about $1.042 billion with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Chamorro, who will attend a meeting of presidents of Central America and Mexico on 10-11 January in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of the southern state of Chiapas, said that "this is one of the issues I will discuss with the Mexican president."

Chamorro said that Mexico could grant favorable terms to Nicaragua to allow it to pay its debts with that country, "which as they stand now constitute a very onerous legacy that we cannot pay off."

When she assumed the presidency in April, Chamorro began to negotiate with her country's creditors to pay off the Nicaraguan foreign debt of $11 billion and obtain new loans to revive the national economy.

The Nicaraguan president traveled to Caracas last year to negotiate favorable terms for its petroleum bill with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Nicaragua will pay Venezuela $150 million over 40 years at an annual interest rate of three percent.

In comments she made concerning the grace period granted by Venezuela—which resumed crude oil shipments to Nicaragua in August—Chamorro said that "perhaps a great-great-grandson will end up paying off the debt within 40 years."

Chamorro will try to obtain similar terms in her negotiation with the Mexican Government and hopes that "the search for a regional solution involving countries like Mexico, which are willing to help Nicaragua, will be very positive."

"I want to strengthen the ties of friendship between the people of Mexico and Nicaragua, and especially those with our fraternal President Carlos Salinas de Gortari," he added.

The Nicaraguan president will travel to the presidential summit aboard an executive plane supplied by the Mexican Government.

Editorial Upholds Sandinist Political Objectives

PA0801135791 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Sandinist Revolution Is Alive"]

[Text] Evidently, we are witnessing the beginning of a political trend the ultimate goal of which is to eliminate the Sandinist People's revolution. First it was Dr. Rafael Solis, formerly a staunch defender of the Sandinist government in the National Assembly, now an accuser of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. Solis has described the FSLN as a radical party with a double moral standard, and so forth, and has reached the unfortunate conclusion that we must all surrender unconditionally to the UNO [National Opposition Union] government. He was followed by economist Oscar Rene Vargas, who pompously recites a requiem for the Sandinist revolution as he prepares its burial under the incredible argument that its death occurred because it lost contact with the people.

While Solis recommends surrender to Mrs. Chamorro's government, Vargas contends that "the lack of a coherent political program has weakened the FSLN and has left a positive balance for the extreme right led by Virgilio Godoy. [quotation marks as published] There is no doubt that the reasoning concerning the FSLN is superficial and the reasoning concerning the opportunities for the extreme right led by Godoy is extremely naive.

In our modest opinion, the environment that created the FSLN's struggle is still present and consequently its political program remains timely. As far as we know, the FSLN never tried to implement a system similar to the one in the USSR. That was only an unjust accusation by its enemies. Therefore, more than political effects, the downfall of East European countries had economic consequences for the Sandinist revolution.

We continue to be poor, underdeveloped, and exploited by the so-called "first world." We must continue to defend our constantly threatened national sovereignty and we must continue our struggle to escape the straight jacket of economic dependency. There are many matters still pending that the revolution managed to only begin to discuss that have remained untouched due to the imperialist aggression.

Does the extreme right have any future? In our opinion it has no future here or anywhere in the world simply because, far from resolving problems, it makes them worse. Are we not seeing this?

* Government, Military Attitudes Questioned

91CA0042A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 4

[Commentary by Moises Hassan]

[Text] Pacts are nothing new in the political history of Nicaragua. I think it is an undisputed fact that their essence—stated in the simplest, most straightforward terms possible—has consisted in the pledge of one of the parties to submit to the political power of the other, which thus becomes unquestionable, at least for a time, in exchange for certain gratifications in terms of material goods and political or social status.

Seen from such a perspective, agreements made between the Front's leadership and the sector controlling the Executive Branch have introduced a new element into this old instrument the pact: political manipulation. They have established the simultaneous coexistence of two political powers, neither of which has remained clearly subordinate to the other, at least for the time being. As a result, the foundations have been laid for the irremisible and nearly instantaneous emergence of an inevitable process through which each of the power groups tries to subordinate the other. It is precisely the many diverse manifestations of this phenomenon that are responsible for the fact that our country feels overwhelmed and has continued to be bled ummercifully for the past nine months.

There is another interesting aspect of the power struggle being waged on our soil: One has the clear impression that the leadership of one of the parties to the dispute—

revolving around the Office of President—is not excessively interested in having the sector it represents emerge from the contest victorious. On the contrary, it would seem to be effecting a deliberate, gradual surrender—no less clear, however gradual—of the power the results of the February elections tried to grant. Nor was it excessively difficult to predict the reaction that would result from this general perception, and the rather unorganized rank and file that led the government to the current Executive Branch—it is important to note that the majority of that rank and file voted against the Front remaining in the government rather than for UNO [National Opposition Union]—have begun to regroup, presumably in the direction of taking up the defense, not so much of the latter—the government—as of the process of democratizing our society it presumably tried to generate with the February vote. It is clear that, from that standpoint, such a process depends on the alienation of the Front from the power centers, but not by virtue of its physical elimination, as some would have us believe, meaning a revision of presidential agreements with that organization, the disappearance of the duality of power, and the subordination of the Armed Forces to the people's will as freely expressed in the presidential elections. The recent and unfortunate events in Boaco, Chontales, La Concepcion, Sebaco, and other places, are nothing more than another indeed mistaken and counterproductive way of conducting that defense. Paradoxically enough, the attitudes in question have led to a curious confrontation in which the Executive Branch, shoulder to shoulder with the Front, is engaged in a fight with a significant sector of those who carried it to its high post of responsibility.

In contrast, and while this is not surprising, the other partner to this unfortunate union, the power group whose spearhead is the Army, has acted with great aggression which is a mixture of anger, despair, and irresponsibility. It is fighting with all the means it has at hand to become the authentic and unchallenged guiding center of national life and consolidate itself as such. There is no other way to interpret the shameful laws and actions of March and April, the July riots, the attack on the Olof Palme Convention Center, and finally, the two events we reported with alarm in a previous article: the official appearance of a possible new version of the AMROCS [no further expansion] and the subsidy rumored to be granted to the Front through the Army's budget and given in exchange for the hunger, lack of clothing, unemployment, and suffering of Nicaragua's people, impoverished by those very means.

All of which demonstrates that as long as two power fronts continue to coexist: the Army and the people, each trying to impose its hegemony over the other, our unfortunate country will never be able to enjoy peace and stability, quantities as sought-after as they are elusive.

Nor is it difficult to observe that at one time or another in their history, all Latin American countries have gone through various versions of the struggle we are now enduring. They also all finally solved their dilemma—although it is not easy to say how stable those solutions are—one way or another. In most cases, their armies have become a kind of state within a state, characterized by decision-making powers well-defined in certain areas—what resources are to be allocated to them, what methods are to be used to fight the demands of the different sectors of the population, for example—accompanied by a veto power over those government decisions they do not like or which they deem harmful to their institutional or personal interests. In others—the fewest in number—the military has been clearly subordinated to the strong democratic power resulting from the ballot box.

The anguishing question inevitably posed as a result of the foregoing reflections is the following: How long will Nicaragua continue to suffer this agony and what will be the final outcome of the drama?

I want no militarist option for my country, for such an option would amount to accepting with resignation—as a result of exhaustion or repression—the fact that, after so much suffering, so much grief and destruction, so many failed hopes, we are back to where we started or worse, under conditions of even greater poverty. We would be accepting the fact that economic development and hopes for a better life for all Nicaraguans must be postponed indefinitely and that, in the final analysis, this long-suffering people must continue to bear the cross which unscrupulous political and personal interests have almost eternally placed on their tired shoulders.

I prefer the imposition of a civil, democratic solution that respects the will of the people, with no cannons or guns, one that would exalt peace and human rights and reject war-mongering, autocratic thoughts, one that would have the fruits of the labors of our men and women placed in the service of all rather than serve the whims of minorities with insatiable appetites. In sum, it is the solution that would have as its irrenounceable goal the establishment in our country of an authentic state of law.

Those who have always placed in the path of the long-awaited alternative the barrier of their own interests—accompanied by the spectre of war—must shoulder the unavoidable historic duty of opening the way to the future, allowing life and hope to freely take that path, ceasing to thwart the longing of the Nicaraguan people.

Otherwise, ambushes will lie in wait for the future of Nicaragua ready to release disaster and misfortune, grief and hatred, poverty and corruption.

New Television Channel To Air in Apr

PA0501153791 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[From the independent Extravision newscast]

[Text] Work related to the installation of television channel four, the new television channel of the Nicaraguan people, is well under way.

Sergio Ramirez, president of channel four's board of directors, and Dionisio Marenco, executive director of the television channel, have visited the site where the installation of channel four's antenna is under way. The installation could be finished in mid-March and transmissions could begin in early April. Ramirez was very optimistic about the new television channel.

[Begin Ramirez recording] We are working to start channel four's transmissions in April. We have come here with Dionisio Marenco, who is the general manager of the television channel, to inspect the building of the antenna's foundation. This will be the biggest transmission antenna in the country. It is nearly 100 meters high. Thus, with this tower and the transmitters, which are also very modern, we will have national coverage. We will carry good, independent, and pluralistic programming. Our programming will bring entertainment, information, and amusement to all Nicaraguans. We are also determined to raise capital for this channel, which is a new enterprise. We are getting in touch with investors in Spain, France, Venezuela, Colombia, and the United States in order to provide good programming and ensure strong financial support.

Therefore, since this is a new and independent company, our efforts are twofold. We want to have good technical quality, which is being ensured by the equipment we are installing, varied programming, and the financial backing that the company may obtain. [sentence as heard]

In February we think that we will sell the shares so that people can participate as co-owners of this television channel. Each share will cost $100. We hope that as many Nicaraguans as possible, of those wanting to, will become shareholders of channel four. [end recording]

Health Minister Thanks Cuban Medical Contingent

FL0801014091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Nicaraguan Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron has stressed the work carried out by the Cuban Carlos Fonseca Amador Medical Contingent in various regions [words indistinct]. At a meeting in Managua with Cuban Ambassador to Nicaragua (Fernando Ravelo) and Carlos Garcia, the head of the Cuban medical mission, Salmeron expressed thanks for the help provided by the almost 160 Cuban doctors, nurses, and technicians to improve the critical public health situation in Nicaragua.

Panama

Endara Praises Gains, Predicts 'Excellent' 1991

PA0801200191 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 8 Jan 91 pp 1, B2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Excerpts] President Guillermo Endara predicted that 1991 "is going to be an excellent year for all Panamanians" in political, social, and economic fields, and denied that his wife meddles in state affairs.

"Ana Mae does not become involved in anything to do with the government," Endara reiterated in exclusive statements to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA following his first visit to the publishing house since he took office on 20 December 1989. [passage omitted]

When evaluating his first year in office, Endara said: "If one analyzes it, one can see there were many achievements."

Endara said, "Regrettably, the achievements do not make news as often as criticism does," however, Endara listed as achievements "the democratic system that we live under" and, "despite all the problems," the resolution of the Chorrillo war homeless situation.

Concerning the controversial Council for Public Security and National Defense [Conasepuden], Endara said that it is not "an espionage office," but an intelligence office," which exists in nearly all countries. [quotation marks as published]

"The problem lies in determining where the intelligence system should be. Should it be part of the Public Force, the same as in the past when it was part of the Defense Forces, or as part of the Presidency?" Endara asked. He promised that this week he would invite the press to talk about the topic and get to know the Conasepuden installations.

Endara reiterated that in 1991 [year as published], the legislative branch approved laws that are good for the country and today, Panama is "at the beginning of a new economic stage."

Asked about a possible amnesty, the president said that "he stopped thinking about it" following the criticism he received months ago when the possibility of a pardon came up.

Nevertheless, Endara believes that the amnesty topic "should come from public opinion to the president, because the idea has already been cast and I will not offer it myself again."

When referring to the controversial situation of the people who have sought asylum at the Cuban, Mexican, Ecuadoran, and Peruvian Embassies, Endara reaffirmed that Panama will only give safe-conduct "to those

accused of political crimes," as in the case of the officers involved in the 5 December 1990 uprising.

Endara described as fruitful the meeting held on 2 January at Cermeno, with legislators and ministers from the various ruling parties, because mutual complaints and criticism about the government's work were heard.

The president announced the formation of a joint commission from the executive and legislative branches "to lay out the problems" because "the independence between both branches should be maintained to allow their work to be fruitful and in the interest of the people."

Asked why he grew a mustache, Endara jokingly replied that he wanted to imitate the press because "there are many journalists who wear mustaches and who are very lucky."

Endara, U.S. Congressmen Discuss MLAA

PA0801194591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Some U.S. congressmen, members of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, are in Panama to learn of the current administration's efforts to stem drug trafficking and to seek support so the president and the National Assembly approve a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAA] with the United States.

Congressmen Charles Rangel, Wally Herger, and James Scheuer, who met yesterday with President Guillermo Endara, Foreign Minister Julio Linares, and Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, are in the U.S. delegation. Today the congressmen are scheduled to travel to La Paz, Bolivia.

President Guillermo Endara told EL PANAMA AMERICA that he talked with Rangel regarding the MLAA, an agreement that has been under negotiation since March, so that both countries assist one another in the investigation and legal processing of punishable crimes, especially drug trafficking and money laundering.

The president said that the congressmen, as well as the Panamanian Government, are interested in Panama's struggle to eradicate drug trafficking. The president gave assurances that signing the MLAA will not affect the banking secrecy.

The congressmen also met with Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez and the presidents of the various commissions. Olimpo Saez, president of the foreign relations commission, disclosed that at the meeting "the penny-pinching" U.S. policy against the weak Panamanian democracy was questioned.

Saez reported: The U.S. mission expected the Legislative Assembly to firmly back the MLAA, and we replied that local legislators are interested in backing all agreements intended to combat drug trafficking and money laundering, but we are not willing to adversely affect the service sector.

The foreign relations commission president said that he questioned the congressmen, because after the United States caused the country's most serious crisis, the United States expects Panama to sign a broad based MLAA agreement, which could cause capital to flee the financial center that operates in Panama.

Meanwhile, Budget Commission President Milton Henriquez told the visitors that the National Assembly has the full intention of signing the MLAA to halt drug trafficking, but will not back a project intended to turn Panama into a U.S. internal revenue collection agency.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, after meeting with the congressmen, stated that the drug problem in Panama is "serious," because now Panama is not only a country where drugs pass in transit, but it is a consumer country as well.

A legislative source disclosed that the congressmen hinted that if the MLAA treaty is not signed, the congressmen will have difficulties getting aid for Panama.

Two Soldiers Granted Political Asylum, Depart

PA0801134291 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Sublieutenants Lucas Gonzalez and Jesus Quiros Puyol, who supposedly participated in the 5 December police rebellion, left Panama this afternoon after being granted political asylum by Venezuela. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry told the press that the two men were granted safe-conduct because the crimes with which they are charged are political. With these two officers, a total of six Panamanian soldiers have left the country under such circumstances.

As can be seen, the two men left the Venezuelan Embassy escorted by Foreign Ministry and Venezuelan Embassy officials and Panamanian Public Force members. At Tocumen International Airport, Venezuelan Ambassador Luis Ochoa spoke to RPC Television:

[Begin recording] [Ochoa] The Venezuelan Government granted them asylum and the embassy worked to obtain safe-conduct from the Panamanian Government. The safe-conducts were granted, so they are leaving for Venezuela today after receiving political asylum.

[Reporter] In view of this situation, how are relations between Panama and Venezuela?

[Ochoa] I think they are very good. Moreover, the speed with which the Panamanian Government granted the safe-conducts is seen as very positive in Venezuela. It is one more demonstration of the good relations between Panama and Venezuela. [end recording]

Endara Law Firm Mentioned in Embezzlement Scandal

PA0801224491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jan 91 p 28-A

[By Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Panama railroad director Roberto Moreno will file three accusations for slander and libel against National Casinos Manager Emilio Garuz, who said that the former manager of the private company committed alleged irregularities to the detriment of the National Casinos.

Garuz said that the Juliano Internacional Co., which leases slot machines to the National Casinos, committed fraud totalling $2 million.

Moreno, who called a news conference on 7 January, vigorously denied Garuz's accusations and added that the latter will have to justify the statements against him [Moreno] in court.

Moreno said that some people want the contract that Juliano Internacional has with the National Casinos given to Romel Adames, who is the manager of the Recreation and Entertainment Company of Panama and who also has slot machines. Romero added that Romel's brother, Raul, is the brother-in-law of the National Casinos manager.

Moreno said that Romel is the son of presidential adviser Jorge Pacifico Adames and that the law firm that serves as local agent of the Recreation and Entertainment Company of Panama is Solis, Endara, Delgado y Guevara.

Roberto Moreno belongs to Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement and the National Casinos manager belongs to the Arnulfista Party of President Guillermo Endara.

Moreno became president of the board of directors of Juliano Internacional in August 1990. Until then, the company had been managed by U.S. citizen Jaime Lerner.

Moreno sued Lerner for $34 million because that money was illegally taken from Juliano Internacional to set up other companies throughout the country, like the Bambito Hotel.

Juliano Internacional's contract with the National Casinos expires in 1993. Moreno said he is willing to participate in the bidding if that is what is decided.

Moreno said that he is upset because of the accusations made by Garuz and added that he was not intending to clear up this issue publicly but that the statements of the National Casinos manager "forced me to answer him publicly."

Argentina

Supreme Council Sentences Seineldin, Others

PY0801203491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1927 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jan (TELAM)—It has been officially reported that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has sentenced Colonels Mohamed Ali Seineldin, Luis Baraldini, and Oscar Ricardo Vega to indefinite imprisonment and discharged them from the Army for their responsibility in the bloody rebellion on 3 December. The death penalty is not mentioned in the sentence.

Colonel Luis Isla Rodriguez, the spokesman for the council, reported that 12 other officers who also headed the rebellion in several military units have been sentenced.

Isla Rodriguez announced the sentences just after 1700 without mentioning the death penalty for any of the rebels, as had been reported by some media.

Rodriguez said that in the next eight days the council will publish the basis of the resolutions taken by this judicial body.

The sentences read as follows:

Beraldini is charged with being the leader of the rebellion. The charge is aggravated by the shedding of blood.

Seineldin is charged with being the instigator and promoter of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood.

Vega is charged with being jointly responsible, and therefore a leader of the rebellion.

CNEA Reports Record Nuclear Energy Generation

PY0801184691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2051 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (NA)—The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) today reported that in 1990 it generated a record 17.5 percent of the energy used in the National Interconnected System (SIN).

The CNEA reported that the Embalse Nuclear Plant generated 5.412 million MW [megawatts]/hour during the year. This is enough to cover the consumption of 4 million people.

In a press communique, the CNEA reported that this production during 1990 allowed the country to save, or to earmark for other purposes, hydrocarbon fuel worth $255 million.

These results mean that the Embalse nuclear plant is one of the top generators of electricity in the country. Having reached a load factor of 95.33 percent, it has become the leader among the nuclear plants of its type in the world.

During the same period, the Embalse nuclear plant also generated 3.3 million curies of cobalt-60, one of the most widely used radioisotopes in the field of cancer therapy and in the industrial sector.

Bolivia

Minister Concerned With Possible Strike Violence

Planned COB Strike Raises Concerns

PY0801143091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco said today that the government is concerned about the threats of violent action made by leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] for the strike announced by this organization.

[Begin recording] [Capobianco] All transportation and communications systems will work. Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] will operate. Enfe [National Railway Enterprise] will definitely operate normally tomorrow. The Post Office will also operate normally. A special negotiation with employees of Lloyd Aereo Boliviano concluded at 1950 today; international flights will operate tomorrow. The hydrocarbons sector will guarantee service for the public tomorrow and the day after. I would also like to report that workers in the media sector will do some of their work, although the La Paz Journalists Federation's decision to work was not unanimous. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] What about the security mechanisms?

[Capobianco] As you know, the security mechanisms are always alert to prevent any excesses that elements with the old mentality may try to introduce tomorrow. I would like to take this opportunity to call on the workers for prudence and moderation because the people who have always thought that this country is mature enough for an armed, violent insurrection will probably try to carry out isolated actions tomorrow. We will be alert to prevent elements involved in illegal action from succeeding tomorrow. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rueda on Strike's 'Complete Failure'

PY0901112491 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, the official government spokesman, today told this television station that the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has lost its ability to obtain the worker's support because not very many workers responded to the call for today's march, which turned out to be a complete failure.

[Begin recording] [Rueda] When only 8,000 people in a city of about 1 million inhabitants participate in a march, it shows that the COB has lost its support. It shows that the large majority of the population of La Paz

was either against or indifferent to a march called under slogans which specifically referred to violence.

There were some violent actions on 16 De Julio Avenue, when the windows of businesses were broken and two police motorcycles of the Interior Ministry were set on fire. This did occur. I believe that the march was a complete failure. It is sad to have to say this because we are not enemies of the labor movement. We would like to see the labor movement play a more positive role in politics and in Bolivian society. Unfortunately the idea of the old labor leaders sticking to a method of struggle which is no longer compatible with the current situation is taking the labor movement from failure to failure, and this is one of them.

[Reporter] After the strike is over will the labor leaders be able to meet with the government officials who said that they will not meet with them until the strike is lifted?

[Rueda] Of course, this government advocates solving problems through dialogue, but not under pressure. The government has already said that once the general strike is lifted it will meet immediately with COB leaders. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Minister Downplays Administration's 'Worst Crisis'

PY0801171791 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez has said that President Paz Zamora's most difficult time was his first five days as president.

Fernandez dismissed allegations published by an international news agency [not further specified] which state that President Paz is going through his administration's worst crisis due to the labor and political unrest that is resulting from the latest government decreed fuel hikes.

The minister said that the worst days were those immediately after taking over because the past administration left many unresolved economic problems. Fernandez said that the present situation should not worry the population because the economic measures will create economic stability and will, in turn, result in social peace.

Defense Minister Denies Resignation Rumors

PY0801140891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Hector Ormachea today told reporters at Government Palace that he had not resigned.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Ormachea] ...it is the president's constitutional prerogative. I have not resigned. It never occurred to me. I do not know where the rumor came from.

[Reporter] It is said that the resignation was due to a general's remarks.

[Ormachea] How could that influence anything? You know about it because the press revealed the name of the person responsible for the anonymous remarks. How could that have any influence, particularly if what he said is a lot of nonsense.

[Reporter] What about the Armed Forces reshuffle?

[Ormachea] It will be finished this week, as I have said before.

[Reporter] Will the Armed Forces fulfill their duties as usual?

[Ormachea] Absolutely. Everything is absolutely calm and normal in the military sphere.

[Reporter] Will the [Bolivian Labor Federation] strike alter the situation?

[Ormachea] There is no reason for that to happen.

[Reporter] We have heard remarks by concerned officers saying that the budget was prepared without considering the needs of garrisons and units. What can you tell us about it?

[Ormachea] I have told them that I am also concerned about the budget, but it is a national problem. In fact, we are all concerned. We wish we had more funds so we could do a better job. All ministries will suffer from a lack of funds. We are all concerned, but we are still ready to fulfill our duty within those limitations.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the military says that the budget used to be prepared from the units up, taking into consideration the units' needs, and that you worked out an arbitrary budget.

[Ormachea] This is false. The Armed Forces' budget is a result of everything that was submitted by all branches. The Defense Ministry only adds them up. This is an example of an anonymous rumor that creates unrest. I repeat, the rumor is absolutely false. Each branch presented its budget. All commanders, including the commander in chief, participated in the negotiations. [end recording]

Interior Ministry Appoints New Under Secretary

PY0801193291 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Summary] The Interior Ministry has appointed Fernando Aguilar as new interior under secretary.

Aguilar had been working as information secretary general until his new appointment.

President Paz Zamora To Visit Europe in Mar

PY0801172091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has said that the president of the Republic will visit Switzerland, the USSR, and France in March 1991 as part of a tour aimed at strengthening relations with these countries.

Iturralde said that as in 1990, the Bolivian president will carry out intense activity to contact several countries to obtain resources for his country's development.

Among other diplomatic activities, Iturralde reported that Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo will visit Bolivia in February 1991 to attend the first meeting of the Binational Integration Council.

The Spanish foreign minister and other EEC foreign ministers are expected to come to Bolivia in March.

Iturralde also reported that in March he will attend a meeting of the Rio Group foreign ministers in the Colombian city of Cartagena.

Brazil

* Progress of Trade Talks With Cuba Discussed

91SM0135A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 5 Dec 90 p 3

[Article by Claudia Izique: "Sao Paulo Goes to Cuba To Expand Trade With Brazil"]

[Text] Havana—The characters in the novel "Roque Santeiro"—which attracted record audiences in Brazil—are admired with equal enthusiasm by Cubans, who when they identify you as a Brazilian smilingly mention the diatribes of the widow Porcina and want to know how the novel ended.

The Cuban state television is widely exhibiting Brazilian productions, and this suggests great official approval on the part of Fidel Castro's administration for the rapprochement with Brazil. It will be recalled that Castro attended the inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello, paid a visit to the Latin America Memorial, and conferred at length with Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia.

At the present time the relations between the two countries are being carried out basically through the medium of the Sao Paulo state government. Mindful of Brazil's economic crisis, the Cubans want to turn the slowdown in Sao Paulo's industry to their advantage. They identify with the segment of the political spectrum that supports Governor Quercia and will support his successor. This provides a basis for stimulating bilateral trade in an atmosphere of pragmatism and flexibility.

During all of this morning a seminar in Havana discussed the prospects for cooperation between Cuba and Brazil, in an effort to solve problems that exist in connection with the mechanisms for financing foreign trade. The goal is to define common interests in the areas of public health, housing, energy, biotechnology, informatics, and others.

The seminar actually represents a second round of discussions; the first round took place last October in Sao Paulo. The agreements reached do not exclude the formation of joint Brazilian enterprises—whether private or public—in association with the Cubanacan S.A. "holding company." This is why the Seminar on the Balance Sheet and Future Prospects for Brazil-Cuba Trade—which began this week—was attended by technical experts and officials of the Cuban Government and by representatives of the Sao Paulo state government, universities, and companies in coordination with the Secretariat of Science, Technology, and Economic Development of the State of Sao Paulo. Those present include representatives of the Sao Paulo State Secretariat of Health; Fundap [Administrative Development Foundation]; CESP [Sao Paulo Electric Power Plants, Inc.]; the recently privatized VASP [Sao Paulo Airline]; the People's Aid Foundation; the Getulio Vargas Foundation; UNESP [Sao Paulo State University]; SENAC [National Trade Service]; and the Informatics Division of the Secretariat of Press and Publishing.

The Cubans are convinced that Brazil is a market for its pharmaceutical products, biotechnology, and sugarcane by-products (except for fuel alcohol), which are strategic items on the new list of Cuban exports. The Cubans hope Brazil will supply "know-how" that will enable them to develop their tourist industry efficiently, and capital for the creation of enterprises in the areas of tourism, energy production, bus chassis construction, air transportation, food production, and agroindustry.

Difficulties Under Discussion

A Brazil-Cuba entrepreneurial committee will be created tomorrow at the Habana Libre hotel in Havana. This concrete step is a manifestation of the effort that Cubans and Brazilians are making to overcome—or at least to minimize—the limitations that exist on both sides with respect to financing trade.

On the Cuban side, the scarcity of foreign exchange and the deficit in bilateral trade combine to inhibit an increase in trade.

On the Brazilian side, the progressive withdrawal of the State from the business of supplying export credit is accompanied by a tightening of the international credit lines for the financing of foreign trade.

In response to the pressure resulting from these difficulties, the Cuban Government and the Sao Paulo state officials are seeking to broaden the reciprocal credit agreement and are considering a proposal that the Sao Paulo State Bank (Banespa) become more involved by increasing the capital it has available for commercial loans and lengthening the time allowed for repayment.

An intensification of the formation of joint ventures and barter agreements is also recommended, and there was discussion of the possibility—also as a way to increase trade—of Cuban intervention to arrange tripartite trade negotiations among Brazil, Cuba, and the Soviet Union. In connection with this effort, a book written by Cuban economists on the subject of the Cuban economy and its incorporation into the world economy will be translated into Portuguese and published by the Brazilian publishing house Alfa-Omega.

Trade Increases by 30 Percent

Brasilia—The difficulty of obtaining financing from the international banks is affecting trade with Cuba, but the decrease in trade will not show up on the books until next year, diplomatic sources believe.

In 1980 trade with Cuba recorded an increase of 30 percent over the figure for 1989, when Brazil exported $75 million in goods and imported $26 million in Type B antimeningococcus vaccines. The forecast to the effect that trade will record an increase in 1990 is based on the data for the first quarter: in January alone Cuba sold Brazil $21 million in goods, and in June and July bought from Brazil $50 million in machinery, equipment, telecommunications terminals, chemical products, and small computers.

Since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1986 trade has increased by more than 4,000 percent: increasing from $3 million in 1987 to approximately $130 million in 1990. The great principal factor in achieving this increase was undoubtedly the acquisition of Cuban vaccines by means of the system of triangular trade. Interbras [Petrobras International Trade, Inc.] purchased the vaccines for the Ministry of Health, and Cuba used the foreign exchange thus obtained to import machinery and equipment. It was not "barter." Now, however, with the extinction of Interbras, the Ministry of Health will probably have to enter into a contract with a private "trading company" in order to continue to import vaccines.

In recent months, diplomats who specialize in relations with Cuba have heard from Brazilian businessmen that the international banks—the Deutsche Bank, for example—are refusing to supply credit even in the amount of $300,000 to finance Brazilian imports from Cuba. Despite Havana's persistent solicitations, Brazilian authorities have not provided any financial support for this trade.

A diplomatic source says that with the decline in trade that is anticipated for 1991, "there is a genuine possibility of an increase in tourism." VASP—which operates charter flights from Sao Paulo to Havana—is interested in increasing the frequency of its flights because it is currently unable to satisfy demand. Opportunities in the area of scientific and technological cooperation are also encouraging, and Congress has recently ratified a bilateral agreement relating to such cooperation. The Cubans are advanced in the fields of biotechnology and the production of certain medications and in return are seeking informatics technology, new materials, and advanced chemical products.

At the request of the Brazilian importers, the two governments negotiated an agreement partially covering this trade within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). The agreement will now have to be revised, because it was drawn up at a time when "Annex C" of the former CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] was still in effect and prohibited, for example, the importation of cigars and rum. Under the terms of the agreement, cigars could be imported with the payment of a tariff of 100 percent. With the elimination of Annex C, the tariff went up to 105 percent. The agreement will have to be readjusted in accordance with Brazil's new tariff policy, the foreign ministry source says.

* CUT Anti-Bush Demonstration in Brasilia

91SM0136F Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—About 200 demonstrators from 30 labor groups and leftist parties took part in a protest against the presence in Brazil of U.S. President George Bush. The rally, organized by the United Federation of Workers (CUT), took place at noon in the Plaza of the People. Red flags and posters with anti-Bush slogans decorated the square—a brightly colored display that contrasted with the harsh message the union members were delivering to the American and Brazilian presidents. "Bush came to audit our country's accounts and demand payment of the foreign debt," they shouted. Fernando Collor was called Bush's "office boy" and "errand boy." At the end of the afternoon, the demonstrators handed out pamphlets that said "Out with Bush," demanded the withdrawal of American troops from Panama and Kuwait, and included a manifesto by CUT president Jair Meneguelli against the government's wage policy.

* Lutzenberger Discusses Amazon With EC Group

91SM0136E Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Dec 90 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—Secretary of the Environment Jose Lutzenberger said yesterday, during a meeting with a delegation from the European Communities (EC), that some of the responsibility for the devastation of the Amazon region rests with the European countries. The committee, composed of 14 delegates from the EC and headed by Pierre Defraigne, came to Brazil to evaluate the environmental issues in the Amazon region and discuss the general outlines of a proposal to use funds from the Group of Seven—United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan—to preserve the rainforest.

Lutzenberger emphasized that Europe was the source of the development model—which he termed absurd and

suicidal—that is contributing to the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. At the end of the secretary's speech, Defraigne said that after spending a day hearing the views of Brazilian officials in the field and listening to the ideas of nongovernmental organizations, the delegation has realized that the proposed task is more important than had been thought. According to Defraigne, all this has contributed to the evolution of a new way of thinking about Amazonia.

Lutzenberger was harsh in his criticism of the European nations. Without mincing words, he said that Europe unleashed the devastation of the native forests in Brazil when it implemented its policy of feeding its cattle with imported grain. That, he said, destroyed the last subtropical forests in Brazil (in the south of the country), which were cleared in order to grow soybeans.

"We have destroyed our forests in order to feed fat European cows and not to feed the starving people in Brazil, whose numbers are not insignificant. This absurd policy over there has neglected the people over here—warned the secretary, making it clear that he does not share the idea of developing the Amazon and questioning whether a country with 8.5 million sq km needs to exploit its last tropical rainforest.

The meeting lasted all day, with explanations about the situation in the region and the experiments that have been conducted. Lutzenberger appealed to the EC delegation to pay special attention to the need to establish the boundaries of the "extractive agriculture" reserves, not just to protect them.

* Conflicts With Colombian FARC Described

91SM0136B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Dec 90 p 4

[Report by special correspondent Maria Lima]

[Excerpt] Tabatinga, (Amazonas)—While visiting Tabatinga, President Collor heard detailed reports about the conflicts provoked by the invasion of the guerrilla group FARC—Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—into Brazilian territory in the gold prospecting region of Serra da Traira. For more than a year, the 700 men of the First Frontier Battalion of Tabatinga have been battling to end the constant confrontations in Serra da Traira, 400 km from Tabatinga, between Brazilian prospectors and Colombian prospectors who are controlled by this revolutionary group. During yesterday's visit, Battalion Commander Evandro Pamplona Vaz gave Collor a secret report of the status of the conflicts in the area and asked for Brazilian Government intervention to contain the invasion.

Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma accompanied Collor on the trip and was assigned to bring Minister of Justice Jarbas Passarinho a full report on the situation.

During his visit to the headquarters of the Frontier Battalion, the president held a secret meeting with Commander Pamplona, who showed a video depicting all the operations that have been carried out in the area. Watching the video, the president saw the 91 Colombians who were arrested in the latest operation, this past October.

"The problem is that we arrest them and 10 days later they are right back where they were," complained the commander, observing that it is vital that helicopters be provided to his unit.

About a month ago, Minister of the Army Carlos Tinoco visited Tabatinga and was impressed with the boldness of the FARC actions as described by Pamplona Vaz. Back in Brasilia, he advised President Collor of the situation and convinced him to visit the Tabatinga Frontier Battalion to acquaint himself in detail about that unit's activities and to decide what steps to take to resolve the problem with the Colombian government.

In the Serra da Traira region, where large quantities of gold are being mined, hundreds of Brazilian prospectors are being driven out of the zone by the Colombian prospectors who are working for the guerrillas. On the Colombian side, explosives are needed to extract the gold, while prospecting on the Brazilian side is much easier because the gold is found in the rivers and bayous.

During the most intense conflicts, the command center of the First Frontier Battalion, based in Tabatinga, is forced to deploy almost all of its men to drive out the Colombians. The operation includes arresting the invaders and extraditing them to the neighboring country. Also taking part in the lecture was General Antenor de Santacruz, head of the Amazonia Military Command. [passage omitted]

* Implementation of Calha Norte Project Urged

91SM0135B Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 16 Nov 90 p 5

[Article by Joaquim Monteiro: "Joint Commission To Study Border Problems"]

[Text] In the northern part of the country, on the upper reaches of the Rio Negro in the Amazon Region where Brazil has a common border with Colombia and Venezuela, problems caused by the narcotics traffic, the invasion by gold prospectors, and unresolved situations pertaining to border demarcation are a source of such great concern to the governments of these countries that they have created a joint commission to evaluate the problem and present possible solutions. The greater share of the blame for these problems is ascribable to the lack of an appropriate military presence in the area, principally on the part of Brazil, which is responsible for approximately 11,000 kilometers of border.

According to an analysis by Armed Forces strategists, Brazil is present on the borders with only "advance

sentries." Nineteen platoons, stationed all along the borders, are operating with a small force of approximately 600 men. These infantry units consist of between 30 and 40 men. There are gaps, as in the case of the borders between Brazil and the British and French Guianas, where the distance between one platoon and another is approximately 3,000 kilometers.

In addition to the distance factor, these units do not have the technical assets available for immediate use in the event of an armed confrontation. Although Colombia and Venezuela maintain good relations with Brazil in all sectors, the presence of guerrilla groups of those countries on the borders with Brazil poses a danger.

Another problem that has preoccupied the Brazilian authorities relates to the drug traffic, especially in view of the crackdown in Venezuela. The traffickers are now directing their attention to Brazil, which in addition to being a consumer is in a a technical sense becoming a corridor for the international drug traffic.

The great length of these borders is an invitation not only to the drug traffickers but also to smugglers of a great variety of items ranging from alcoholic beverages to computer products.

Calha Norte Is Still on Paper

According to military analysts, the government needs to address itself immediately to the problems of the Amazon Region and begin to carry out the Calha Norte Project, which is still only on paper. Revitalization of the frontier areas, together with strengthening the military units, is the first step toward a rational occupation. Increasing the number of units—and concomitantly the number of personnel in the existing units—will lead to the formation of population nuclei surrounding the barracks. Examples of this phenomenon can be observed in the communities that already have been formed in those areas where military units have been stationed on the nation's borders.

The structure of a platoon—even a platoon with a reduced number of personnel—involves an administration that is capable of supplying the needs of a small community, such as education, medical care, sports, and security. The lieutenant in charge of a platoon has had a higher education and is able to teach at the primary level; his wife has generally had a secondary school education and assists him as a teacher's aide; the unit's doctor provides medical and hospital care, aided by military nurses; the transport facilities are provided by the logistic section of the military base; and in this way the community grows.

The communities of Cucui and Tabatinga in the state of Amazonas—as well as other communities—were formed as a result of the stationing of Army units on Brazil's borders with nine South American countries. Cucui—where the Fourth Border Platoon is based—has a population of approximately 1,300, larger than that of the Federal Territory of Fernando de Noronha. Its nucleus of housing got its start with the arrival of that unit, which consisted of one sergeant and a contingent of 19 enlisted personnel. The community of Leticia—built on the Colombian border with Army assistance—is today a flourishing city with a population of approximately 11,000.

*** Quercia Organizes Anti-Collor Plan Front**

91SM0135C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—During his visit to Governor-Elect Iris Rezende of Goias, Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia took the first steps last Tuesday to organize a movement of PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] governors in an attempt to change the economic policy adopted by President Fernando Collor. Quercia plans to publish within two weeks a "document of warning" to show that the states and municipalities might shut down all their productive activities because of the Collor Plan.

After his talk with Rezende in Goiania, the Sao Paulo governor hastily organized—with the help of Deputy Tidei de Lima (PMDB-Sao Paulo)—a meeting with members of Congress in Brasilia to strengthen the proposal for a "recession alert." The presence of Deputy Cesar Maia of the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party] among Quercia's allies was a surprise. In a statement of only a few minutes, Maia voiced the same concerns as those of the PMDB group.

Winning Maia over as an ally in the Chamber of Deputies became a prime objective for Quercia two weeks ago, when the Rio de Janeiro deputy declared in an interview that the Sao Paulo governor had emerged from the elections as "the top national leader of the opposition." According to deputies who were present at the meeting of the PMDB group, Maia went to the meeting merely in the capacity of an economist, to provide data to the deputies concerning the recession.

With the agreement of Deputy Cesar Maia, Quercia told the PMDB deputies that the Collor administration needs to know how to reconcile the fight against inflation with a policy of development, for "otherwise Brazil will not be able to escape the recession and will alsobe unable to get out of it."

During the meeting—which was held in the apartment of Deputy Marcelo Cordeiro (PMDB-Bahia)—Quercia and the deputies criticized the "political and administrative inexperience" of the Collor team. One of those present went so far as to comment that the president's only experience was in the Alagoas state government. "Alagoas is a state," he said, "that in economic terms should be compared with Taubate or Americana"—cities of the interior of Sao Paulo state that are experiencing a major industrial boom.

Quercia placed special emphasis on the decline in revenue from the collection of the ICMS [Merchandise Distribution Tax] in Sao Paulo, pointing out that this tax

is responsible for 90 percent of the state's resources. "The decline in the revenue from this tax is continuing," the governor warned.

He also called attention to the increase in the petitions for composition settlements in Sao Paulo together with the decline in business activity, the unemployment, and the the social tension, painting a pessimistic picture overall. The "Quercistas" have said that the socioeconomic situation in Sao Paulo will bring about a nationwide crisis.

Quercia had invited PDT deputy Cesar Maia to the meeting to present his views on Brazil's economic and financial situation. The Quercistas say that Maia agreed with the negative picture painted by the governor. Osmundo Reboucas, who is also an economist, confirmed the seriousness of the situation. Quercia had also requested the presence of Deputies Jose Serra (PMDB-Sao Paulo), Delfim Neto (PDS [Social Democratic Party]-Sao Paulo), and other deputies with expertise in economics, "but they were not located in time," according to one of those present.

While still in Goias, Quercia decided to stop off in Brasilia. He accordingly telephoned Deputy Tiddei [spelling as published] de Lima and asked hom to get some friends together for an exchange of views on the socioeconomic situation. The governor arrived shortly before 1900 hours and departed for Sao Paulo at 2100 hours. Cesar Maia was the first to leave the meeting. The governor continued for 20 minutes to converse with the PMDB deputies concerning party matters.

Quercia disclosed at the meeting that in addition to talking to Iris Rezende and Luiz Antonio Fleury (Sao Paulo) [not otherwise identified] he planned to discuss the national situation with the other governors elected on the PMDB ticket: Moises Avelino (TO) [expansion not given], Jader Barbalho (Para), Gilberto Mestrinho (Amapa), Ronaldo Cunha Lima (Paraiba), and Roberto Requiao (Parana).

* Business Cartel Formation Punishable by Prison

91SM0136C Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Dec 90 p 20

[Text] Brasilia—The Chamber of Deputies yesterday passed a bill that defines abuse of economic power and tax evasion as crimes, thus subjecting businessmen who—for example—set up cartels to artificially fix prices, or fail to observe the official price schedules, to penalties ranging from one to five years in prison. The bill, which will be immediately sent to the president for signature, was introduced in Congress by the Executive Branch as a substitute for two Provisional Measures that were handed down shortly after the announcement of the Collor Plan, but later deemed unconstitutional on the grounds of legislative technicalities.

Yesterday, the Chamber rejected a substitute bill proposed by the Senate that reduced the penalties for the crimes of tax evasion and abuse of economic power. The initial version of the bill was approved. It gives the government the ability to halt abuses and do a better job of monitoring the implementation of the Collor Plan. The main innovation of the new law is found in its Article 4, which defines crimes against the economic system and consumer relations.

According to this provision, dominating the market or eliminating competition via agreements between companies, acquisition of the assets or shares of another company, or takeovers or mergers of companies would constitute the crime of abuse of economic power, punishable by a fine or by two to five years imprisonment. Selling goods below cost in order to eliminate competition, or destroying and concealing inventory in order to boost prices, also become crimes that subject violators to the same penalty.

The bill also makes it a crime against consumer relations to resort to making "cosmetic changes" in products, as occurred during the Cruzado Plan price freeze. Altering the packaging or external characteristics of the product without making essential modifications or changes in the quality, just to increase its price, will subject the businessman to a fine or two to five years in jail.

"Until now, the abuse of economic power and tax evasion were countered by weak, outmoded, legislation. The new law will make it possible to punish those crimes," said Rio Grande do Sul Deputy Nelson Jobim, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the bill's sponsor.

* Military Wage Issue Continues To Simmer

91SM0136A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Dec 90 p 19

[Excerpt] Brasilia—[Passage omitted] In Rio, a tense atmosphere that includes protest demonstrations that daily gain new adherents among the active and reserve military personnel has taken hold of the units of the Armed Forces in that city, because of dissatisfaction with military pay scales. Receipt of the "13th month salary" [year-end bonus] on 5 December did not diminish the discontent among the military, who have obtained the legal assistance of former Minister of Justice Saulo Ramos in order to file with the Superior Court of Justice, on the 19th of this month, a writ of mandamus against the federal government demanding salary equivalency between the military and the employees of the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judiciary.

"All the 13th salary did was pay the overdue bills," commented the president of the Military Club, General Nilton Cerqueira, Reserve. Once again he warned that the military pay issue is a source of concern to both the profession and the government, which, he said "needs to wake up to the situation." The Military Club is the

official body through which the writ of mandamus will be sent to the Judiciary. Saulo Ramos has been retained to follow the case.

Angry about the current military pay scale and prohibited from making public statements of protest, some of the military have found a way to express their discontent about the government's wage policy—they are using the newsletter OMBRO A OMBRO [Shoulder to Shoulder], an unofficial organ of the Military Club that is circulated among all the units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The newsletter, published monthly, has become a sort of forum for complaints by the military. In this month alone, it has received about 3,000 letters of protest from the armed services.

According to surveys by the Military Club, in July 1990 a police chief who had retired from the Federal Police was receiving 476,000 cruzeiros, 424,000 gross per month [both figures as published], while an Army general with 45 years of service was still earning only 260,000 cruzeiros. The next month, the generals' paychecks, which were frozen from March until they were increased by 30 percent on 1 October, were still the same. At that point, a chief in the Civil Police in Rio was earning 558,000 cruzeiros.

* Petrobras To Run $1.2 Billion Deficit

91SM0136D Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Dec 90 p 22

[Report by Ramona Ordonez]

[Text] Petrobras still finds itself in a difficult cash situation and its deficit may go as high as $1.2 billion (176.7 billion cruzeiros at the commercial exchange rate) by 31 December—a sum equivalent to 63 percent of the $1.9 billion (279.8 billion cruzeiros) in investments made by the company this year. With a deficit that big, Petrobras may have significant problems in paying for oil imports. A confidential document from Petrobras' planning department, sent to company president Eduardo Teixeira, emphasizes that despite the readjustment in fuel prices permitted in November and the "relending" transaction that brought the company $450 million, the deficit will amount to $1.2 billion by the end of the year, the same level recorded this past September.

The content of the report contrasts with the statements by the Petrobras president that "the company will not have cash problems this year." Experts warn Teixeira that it will be hard for the company to manage that big a deficit, considering the availability of short-term credit on the order of $2 billion (294.6 billion cruzeiros). Those lines of credit are used to buy petroleum, but have become insufficient in light of the higher prices of the product on the world market in the wake of the Persian Gulf conflict.

At present, Petrobras is receiving $17 a barrel, while paying an average of $32 per barrel of imported oil.

Petrobras Financial Director Carlos Thadeu said yesterday that the company has achieved the federal government-ordered reduction of 25 percent in its operating expenses for the last quarter of the year. Preliminary figures show a cut of about 1 million National Treasury Bonds (BTNs—88.3 million cruzeiros). This was achieved by trimming personnel costs, inventories of materials and equipment, the use of third-party services, and interest payments.

Chile

Army Declaration Stresses Support for Pinochet

PY0901005691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Aldo Anfossi live relay from mobile unit]

[Text] Today the Army reaffirmed its support for Army Chief General Augusto Pinochet and rejected what it described as a malicious attempt to divide the institution and to influence its relations with other branches of the Armed Forces.

The Army conveyed this in a public declaration released this afternoon. The Army says that the declaration is aimed at the public in view of the permanent position of some sectors—which were not identified—with regard to the Army and its chief, a position which is undoubtedly aimed at undermining the basic principles of the Army's existence.

Lieutenent General Jorge Lucar, deputy commander of the Army, said that the communique represents the feelings and thoughts of the Army in view of what he described as a campaign of speculation on Army structure and unity. Lucar said that this special slander campaign is aimed against Pinochet. General Lucar made this statement during a meeting with generals and officers of the Santiago Garrison. The meeting was also attended by the press. Then General Juan Emilio Cheyre, War Academy director, read the declaration. The main part of the declaration says:

[Begin Cheyre recording in progress] ...it categorically rejects all the attempts based on malicious pretexts which try to introduce divisions among and within the institutions of national defense, and especially within the Chilean Army.

2. In view of this situation, and keeping in mind the high values at stake, the Army reiterates its unconditional support for its principles and its unrestricted loyalty for the Army commander who is an authority who will always represent us. Therefore, the Chilean Army emphatically reaffirms to the country its indestructible institutional unity around Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and its unwavering loyalty to his leadership regardless of the nature and circumstances of the slander campaign aimed at hurting him. [end recording]

The Army declaration also called for an end to the campaign against Pinochet. After the declaration was read Gen. Lucar adjourned the meeting with the corps of generals and officers of the Santiago Garrison, and he left without answering questions from reporters. The declaration, which was approved by the Army high command and released this afternoon, was interpreted as a reaction to media reports on the Army in the last few days.

Government Rejects Expression of Army Discomfort

PY0701142691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1511 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, 6 Jan (EFE)—The government of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin today rejected the expressions of discomfort voiced by the Army. These protest came with the arrest of three retired generals who were detained on orders from the judge investigating an illegal financial agency that operated within the Army.

Acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco said that the expressions of discomfort voiced by Army Prosecutor General Fernando Torres Silva to Supreme Court President Luis Maldonado are unjustifiable "because there are no privileged groups of people in Chile."

On 5 January, Gen. Torres Silva said that the treatment that was given to Generals Patricio Gualda, Patricio Varela, and Gustavo Abarzua—who were arrested on 28 December—was humiliating and offensive for the Army. Gualda and Varela were released the day they were arrested but Abarzua, a former director of the National Intelligence Center (CNI—the secret police of the previous military regime) was held incommunicado for three days and was released on 31 December.

The arrests were ordered by Judge Marcos Libedinsky who is investigating the La Cutufa affair which involved an illegal financial agency operated by military men. Eight Army officers have been prosecuted as a result of this investigation.

Velasco said that the attitude and the remarks of the military prosecutor are surprising because not one of the three generals—including Gen. Abarzua who was held incommunicado—complained about the treatment they received. Velasco recalled that when Gen. Abarzua was released he praised Judge Libedinsky for the courteous attitude which he always showed.

Belisario Velasco added that there are no laws compelling the Army to represent retired members, for which reason he said that the remarks by the military prosecutor reflect "an excess of his duties and a rather insignificant action."

Judge Libedinsky also rejected the criticism from the military prosecutor, noting that his investigation into the "La Cutufa" affair did not seek to pass judgment on the Army but to clarify situations that involve Army members from a strictly individual viewpoint.

The judge said that he is calm and that he ordered the arrest of the three generals and the raiding of their houses because he thought it was the right thing to do.

PCCh Denounces Existence of Parallel Government

PY0801153491 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 90 p C 2

[Excerpts] One of the conclusions that the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] Central Committee came to during its 14th plenum is that there still exists in Chile "a government parallel to the official one that is headed by the Armed Forces commander and the Army high command."

This was reported yesterday by PCCh Central Committee members Gladys Marin, Guillermo Sherping, and Lautaro Carmona when referring to the "coordination, preparation, and security exercises" carried out by some Army units on 19 December.

' The purpose of this exercise was to reassert the Army's alleged autonomy from the democratic government. It confirms our party's denouncement that there is a government parallel to that of President Aylwin and that a confrontation between the two is becoming increasingly evident in all aspects of national life," the PCCh leaders said. [passage omitted]

During its 14th plenum, the PCCh Central Committee confirmed its support for the democratic transition process. Gladys Marin said the party's support for the government coalition is subject to the government's compliance with "all the basic demands made by the popular sectors; demands that have not yet been addressed." [passage omitted]

Haitian Coup Deemed 'Condemnable,' 'Deplorable'

PY0801121691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Asked about the thwarted coup d'etat in Haiti early on Monday, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said that the Chilean Government strongly condemned it.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] We have been informed that soldiers and sergeants—not senior officers—have carried out a coup d'etat in Haiti, and have compelled the current president to resign. Apparently, they will not allow the installation of a new president. This is merely a condemnable military coup that we categorically repudiate. Our position coincides with that of the Rio Group members and the other Latin American countries. We agree not only with the joint declaration to be released by the Rio Group, but with the OAS decision to hold an emergency meeting. [end recording]

Silva Cimma said this coup d'etat is deplorable at a time when democracy is being stabilized in Latin American countries. He added that this is a negative act within the Latin American process of democratization. He said that

Chile, which is consolidating its democracy, must categorically repudiate such acts, which are contrary to the people's will.

Soviet Enovy Cites Need To Strengthen Relations

PY0801170591 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] On presenting copies of his credentials to Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, Yuriy Pavlov, the new Soviet ambassador to Chile, stressed that he will make all efforts to restore and continue the friendly diplomatic relations that had been severed for 17 years. The Soviet people are very pleased with the peaceful restoration of democracy in Chile and we wish you much success. Pavlov pointed out the two countries' mutual interest in establishing specific cooperation in several aspects.

[Begin Pavlov recording] We have to investigate and take specific steps in the commercial field. There is great interest in Chile. Soviet businessmen are very interested in promoting trade with Chile. We are satisfied because Soviet cars are used successfully in Chile. We know that there is a great deal of interest in Soviet culture. My country is also interested in Chilean culture. We have to renew our cultural and sports contacts. [end recording]

Pavlov said that the new Soviet political viewpoint seeks to maintain friendly diplomatic relations with any country, no matter what its regime.

Concerning the perestroyka being implemented in the USSR, he said his country is facing economic and ethnic problems. He explained that the economic system has been modified, but there have been problems because there has not been time to formulate other modifications. Pavlov said the USSR is made up of more than 100 ethnic groups and 15 federative republics. In this regard, he said the great challenge is to provide a liberal character to this union; that is, the republics voluntarily remain in the Soviet Union.

Human Rights Groups Support Prison Occupation

PY0801132891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Today two human rights organizations expressed their unrestricted support for the takeover of a Santiago prison by 146 people. Sola Sierra, the leader for relatives of arrested and missing persons, read a communique stating that there is no possibility of dialogue with the government and called on officials not to evict them because that could seriously affect the country's democratic stability. Sierra said the takeover is for an indefinite period and was done peacefully in an effort to denounce government efforts to negotiate with the Armed Forces and opposition political parties.

The two human rights organizations also reported that the gendarmerie suspended regular visits to political prisoners and common criminals, and cut off electricity in the penitentiary. Sierra demanded that the truth be known about events during the military regime and that those responsible for human rights violations be tried and punished.

Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido said the takeover of the prison three days ago by relatives of political prisoners demanding unconditional releases for the prisoners is irrational and has political connotations. Cumplido also said a strategy for the situation was being drawn up; one of the first measures adopted was the suspension of visits as of today. He added that the government will not talk with the relatives of political prisoners. [passage omitted]

Gendarmerie Director Isidro Solis also confirmed that water and food for political prisoners was cut off and visits were suspended for all inmates. He added that the situation should be solved as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] today called on social organizations to support the actions being carried out by the relatives of political prisoners in the Santiago prison. Oscar Azocar, PCCh political commission member, said the takeover is an answer to the government's delay and bureaucracy on this problem. On possible reprisals inside the prison, Azocar said that there are efforts to create an artificial conflict with the common criminals and that former National Intelligence Center members are behind this. [passage omitted]

Navy Captains Promoted, Admirals Retired

PY0801202291 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Dec 91 p C 4

[Summary] Valparaiso—During a ceremony in the Red Hall of the Chilean Navy building, the following Navy captains were promoted to the rank of rear admiral: Hernan Couyoumdjian Bergamali, commander of the 2d Navy zone headquartered in Punta Arenas; Fernando Sarabia Neumann, arms director; Roman Fritis Perez, Navy deputy chief of staff; and Carlos Rojas Tampier, Navy health director.

Rear Admiral Jorge Llorente Dominguez, commander of the 2d Navy zone seated in Talcahuano, was promoted to Vice Admiral.

Vice Admiral Pedro Anguita Izquierdo, and Rear Admirals Juan Anderson Diaz, Victor Hugo Deformes Duco, and Herbert Wilhelm Perelman, passed to retirement.

Colombia

Gaviria: U.S. Not Pressuring Government on Drugs

PA0901151391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] President Gaviria has defended his government's anti-drug policy and said he trusts it will benefit the country. He said that the United States has not pressured his administration to apply certain norms in the fight

against drug trafficking. The president said that talks have been held with U.S. authorities to analyze possible areas of cooperation between the two countries, and that no requests have been made to conduct any operations against drug traffic.

Justice Minister on Ways To Avoid Extradition

PA0801153291 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel said today that the government maintains a steadfast policy toward drug traffickers. According to this policy, drug traffickers must observe the following steps [to avoid extradition]: 1) they must turn themselves in; 2) they must confess their crimes; and 3) they must be convicted.

However, Minister Giraldo said that the effective date for the reduction of sentences can be changed.

Hugo Sierra has this report.

[Begin recording] [Sierra] With the document in his hands, Justice Minister Giraldo replied to Attorney Guido Parra's recommendations for modifying Decree 30-30. According to Minister Giraldo, the note contributes very little to the process through which the Extraditables can turn themselves over to justice authorities

With regard to the proposal to definitely abrogate extradition, Minister Giraldo said that the government rejects it. He stressed that it is a necessary for the Extraditables to turn themselves in, confess their crimes, and be convicted in order to escape extradition.

[Giraldo] There will be no extradition for those who turn themselves in, but there will be for those who intend to evade justice after apparently surrendering.

[Sierra] However, Minister Giraldo admitted the possibility of changing the effective dates in the decrees, as lawyer Parra recommended.

[Giraldo] We could even consider changing the effective date, 5 September, to another date. This depends on the circumstances.

[Sierra] Another subject on which the government is not willing to give in, is the granting of concessions on charges of illegal possession of weapons and association to commit a crime. In such cases, many would turn themselves in, confessing those crimes, but could retract their confessions during the legal process, and justice would be evaded.

[Giraldo] The defendant could appear before the judge, make a false confession, and retract his confession afterward, and begin an elaborate process of threats, bribery, and other such mechanisms to evade the application of justice.

[Sierra] Legal experts do not see the abolition of extradition as being feasible at the moment.

[Giraldo] For the government, measures to facilitate the surrender of drug traffickers are not negotiable and cannot lead to amnesty for those organizations. [end recording]

* Dangers of Accord With Extraditables Viewed

91SM0130A Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Nov 90 p 9-a

[Commentary by Ramon Jimeno: "The Dangers of the Longing for Peace"]

[Text] The steps that the administration has taken in recent days have made it clear that direct or indirect negotiations are under way with one faction of the drug traffickers and that these negotiations have a pragmatic purpose: to secure peace, not to win the war.

Nonetheless, and in spite of prominent news stories about the requests and initial measures taken to respect the human rights of the Extraditables and their relatives, the official policy of pragmatism is clearly two-pronged: pave the way for them to surrender without being punished, and keep severely repressive measures in place.

The removal of Colonel Pelaez Carmona, whom the Extraditables have repeatedly accused of ordering bloodthirsty irregular actions; the statements by the presidential adviser on human rights, who announced a special inspectorship; the clarifications of the surrender decrees, and the purchase of a building to serve a future, more secure jail are some of the signs of the official policy: the policy of an extended hand, which shows the government's intention of resolving the narcoterrorism problem without resorting to weapons.

The other side of the official policy, however, is the issuance of the new statute for the defense of justice, which is one of the most serious abuses of recent times, inasmuch as it provides for clandestine justice by granting government intelligence agencies the power to act with complete freedom from any controls.

This sort of "justice," which is better suited to a dictatorial regime, abolishes, with one stroke of the pen, essential components of the rule of law and institutionalizes discretionary power in the difficult sphere of administering regulations. Furthermore, it lumps together two very different problems: law and order, which has been breached by subversion, and drug trafficking, which is essentially a problem for the police.

Thus, the administration's apparently generous peace offer is accompanied by one of the most dangerous instruments of repression that has ever been created in the country, the virtual legalization of the dirty war that has been and still is going on in Medellin.

This week 15 persons were killed in that city in three separate attacks; most of them had some sort of connection with cartel-related activities. What has so far been

described as a massacre could, under the new statute, be described as the legal action of an intelligence agency acting as a judicial police force.

In its eagerness to negotiate without weakening the State, the administration is trying to follow a model of repression, copied in part from European antiterrorist plans, to intimidate the drug traffickers who do not avail themselves of its offer. This was also what was done during the peace process with the guerrillas under Betancur, when judicial guarantees were abolished for the guerrillas who did not accept the offer or who resumed their activities. After the successive attempts to legalize the guerrillas, it became obvious that no more prisoners were being taken nor were any being tried; they have simply been eliminated. This policy has led not only to renewed outbreaks of fighting but also to an escalation of subversive-antisubversive warfare.

The same danger exists in the case of the drug traffickers, partly because the security agencies and the cartels have unsettled scores between them, owing to the aftermath of the war, and partly because those fighting on the government side are left with a bitter taste in their mouths when they see their adversaries rewarded with a pardon and legalization. In a country in which the civilian government is more than obviously not in control of its security forces, these two factors could lead to worse unofficial violence than the government is trying to stem.

The murder of a thousand members of the Patriotic Union, as a way of punishing the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], is the most telling recent example of the retaliatory power that exists in the country outside the policies of the civilian government. And the slaying of Carlos Pizarro, as well as the repeated and increasingly blatant threats against Antonio Navarro, show that there is no forgiving and forgetting in Colombia; under such conditions, the risks involved in a negotiation are high.

The Catalyst

Another of the risks that the administration is running with its negotiations stems from the fact that the catalyst of the current peace talks with the Medellin traffickers was unquestionably the kidnapping of several journalists, particularly Diana Turbay and Francisco Santos, who are firmly entrenched in the circles of real power. Although any other development could have prompted the negotiations, inasmuch as people are obviously weary of war and peace is a necessity, the tactic of kidnapping "big fish" could thereby be encouraged. The M-19 employed it with unquestionable success in the case of Alvaro Gomez. The Extraditables tried it back in January, but the control they needed to insure a pact slipped from their hands. The administration could now be showing guerrilla groups what approach they should take to force through political solutions to conflicts that cannot be resolved militarily.

This does not mean, of course, that we cannot and should not negotiate a peace, especially when both sides are willing. What this means is that the negotiations will have domestic and foreign political effects that must be evaluated and neutralized in time. The domestic impact has to do with the other agents of violence in the country, and in this sense the policy of negotiations must, from the government's viewpoint, establish guidelines for protecting the guerrillas. A national-security policy must be spelled out, and the agencies insuring it must be reorganized so that it is pursued in accordance with these guidelines. Otherwise, any agreements will be one-time, short-term pacts without any prospects for the long run. If there is any major area in which the Constituent Assembly can take action to seek peace in Colombia, it is precisely here. A prior negotiation with the drug traffickers will enable these issues to be discussed freely within the body that the primary constituent creates.

On the foreign front, an accord with the Extraditables will likely prompt some sort of political reprisal from the U.S. Government, which is the major promoter of the war against the Colombian kingpins. The reason is that such a solution shatters the plan that they are pushing and, moreover, in no way insures that the flow of drugs to U.S. users will be halted. A negotiated settlement with the Extraditables clearly benefits only Colombia in the sense that it eliminates one of the sources of violence, but it is not an answer to the problem of drug trafficking in the United States.

Some traffickers will go legitimate, but the business, as long as it remains a business, will persist. And because it will persist, powerful new kingpins will emerge, and history, from the Americans' standpoint, will repeat itself. Accordingly, negotiations set a bad precedent as far as they are concerned. It would not be surprising if they resorted to emergency measures to sabotage a potential accord, which they certainly seem unwilling to accept.

In any event, the administration is immersed in an aggressive, two-pronged peace process that will have multiple effects but that will represent at best only a partial solution to the problem of terrorism and drug trafficking. In its eagerness to score a political success before the Constituent Assembly, the administration could cause more serious internal and external problems unless its approach to the negotiations puts an end to the kidnappings and goes beyond the framework of narcoterrorism.

FARC Releases 3 Policemen; Issues Communique

PA0901033791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] With the release of [four-second break in reception] Torres, Javier Montano, and Henry Delgado, active members of the National Police who had been kidnapped in November, the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] wants to show that it is still willing to hold talks with the national government despite its frequent incursions.

On the evening of 7 January a governmental commission, headed by Government Secretary Ramiro Devia, which was requested by the 30th FARC Front, greeted the freed policemen near Dagua.

The policemen carried a communique which said that the FARC rejects the Army's military actions against the headquarters of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, the site where the peace proposals used to be formualted, and that it criticizes the unpopular course of the constitutent assembly and the repressive means used by the police and Army against Pacific Coast residents.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will the attacks that took place over the past week, including those against the pipelines, end?

[Ramiro Devia] That is our hope. We are hopeful that this FARC front and, in general, all subversive forces of the country will accept the government's proposals to create an atmosphere conducive to peace and tranquility not only in Valle del Cauca Department, but throughout the entire country. [end recording]

This morning the government commission contacted the Narino Presidential Palace to receive instructions because, according to conversations with Commander Wilmar of the 30th FARC Front yesterday, new talks will take place over the next few days.

Ecuador

Foreign Minister on UN Peace Efforts in Gulf

PA0801184191 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Diego Cordovez at the UN Security Council session in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] On the Persian Gulf, I can say—and perhaps on behalf of my government as a member of the UN Security Council—that we hope that the various steps being taken at different levels, including here at the Security Council, are successful. If war was to break out at this time, it would be a tragedy for the international community, for all of us.

I believe that all the decisions the Security Council has approved are essentially directed at finding a peaceful solution to the problem. We fully supported them all, although we were not yet members of the Security Council. The provisions that have been set forth in the Council's resolutions will have effect only in the event that a peaceful solution cannot be found.

This is why we hope that a solution can be found in the days that lie ahead. We applaud the efforts that have already been made, and we support all further efforts that may be made and those that are being made now at every level. There are many steps being taken at a regional and international level, and we believe that this fact should encourage all governments at this time.

Secretary Announces Military Command Changes

PA0401142691 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Leopoldo Barriga, national secretary for social communications, has announced that General Jorge Felix has been confirmed as national defense minister.

He also announced that Admiral Hugo Unda has been appointed chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also announced General Jose Gallardo's appointment as Army commander, General William Birkett's appointment as Air Force commander, and Vice Admiral German Yepez' appointment as commander of the Navy.

Barriga said that the changes were made according to the current armed forces law and based on President Rodrigo Borja's decision.

He added that Jacinto Jouvin will continue as minister of industry and commerce.

* PRE Vice-Presidential Candidate Interviewed

91SM0116A Quito HOY in Spanish 19 Nov 90 p 5A

[Interview with Ecuadoran Roldosist Party (PRE) vice-presidential candidate Marco Proano Maya by Luis Moncayo; place and date not given]

[Text] He is a native of Imbabura, a believer in God—"but in the God of the Christians, with clear rules." He has been a member of three parties in the course of his 12 years of political activity, and he could have been a vice-presidential candidate in 1988. He thinks that Abdala Bucaram will be a "fine president," and he believes that politics is not a horse race.

He is Marco Proano Maya, a doctor of jurisprudence who is the brand-new vice-presidential candidate for the Roldosists (PRE). He is Bucaram's running mate for the May 1992 election.

Marco Proano is 45 years old, married to Laura Duran, a native of Quito, and the father of four. "This is a candidacy which has developed in clear and sovereign fashion out of the conviction of the leader of the PRE, Abdala Bucaram, and a party consensus. I have accepted this candidacy in the name of my party's doctrine, and on behalf of a political generation which will do battle for the basic values of the nation until such time as all men in my fatherland have a piece of the future in land and in their souls," he says.

By chance, the interview, which lasted a little over an hour, began on a religious theme. This came up as a result of the fact that Proano studied at the La Salle de Quito Secondary School, because he regards himself as a

Catholic. "I am a Catholic and I am not ashamed to state publicly that I believe in God, but in the God of the Christians."

On being asked if the PRE is a religious party, he said that religion should not compete in the human area of politics, because religion focuses on values precisely where the human condition ends.

"The most faithful interpretation of the Gospel should be the focus on the poor, on the weakest and most neglected people," he said.

However, Proano believes that in the modern world, God and religion "have become a painful tool for violence and war. People invoking God have paved the streets of Belfast with hatred and blood, and in the name of God, children are being killed in the war in Beirut. But that is not the God of the Christians. That is a god who in the end becomes an idol representing ambition and brutal egotism."

Alliances Upset Parties

In answer to a question about whether his candidacy might be premature, because there are still 18 months before the election date, Proano said that "politics is not a horse race." It should set forth policies for the country. Other parties put forth candidates at the last possible moment during the period allowed by law.

He maintains that his candidacy is proof that the PRE will undertake its own risks. In Ecuador, alliances with a view to an election, although they are a legitimate tool, are disturbing to ideologies and create chaos in the political parties. By way of example, Proano cited the alliance between the Democratic Left and the Liberal Party, which has created confusion. "This is an alliance of rivals which will end in a cold war fueled by personal ambition."

He is convinced that in the political campaign for the 1992 election, his candidacy will be consolidated, thanks to "the conviction of the leader of the PRE, the party consensus, and the generous acceptance of the citizenry. The principles and decisions of a party cannot resemble a political buffet."

Speaking of the Social Christian movement, he quoted the songwriter Atahualpa Yupanqui. "The direction is one thing, and the path another."

PRE Is Not Populist

Marco Proano said that Abdala Bucaram is the only leader with a popular mandate. "This is the case not only because he has talent and a great vocation for serving the people, but also because he has what the country needs. In other words, the character necessary to say 'no' to the eternal hegemonic groups, to say 'no' to corruption, and to say 'no' to the institutional violence of those who possess economic power and always aspire to political power," he added.

He emphasizes that the people of Ecuador are outraged because what they are offered during the electoral campaigns is paradise, but what they are given in the end is gradualism.

"We will set forth clear and possible plans. Our government program will be serious and specific, and it will not be reduced to a stack of papers," he noted.

He also said that the PRE has gathered together 200 professionals from all over the country to draft the government program, which will be ready by October 1991. "Here we are going to tell the country what the position of the party is with regard to such important subjects as the role of private enterprise, the employment policy, fiscal and foreign exchange policies, the native nationalities, public works, etc."

On the other hand, Proana believes that populism is a political movement with an ideology.

"We will not enter into any debate on populism, but if there are those who seek to identify with populism as a political movement without ideology, we are not populists, because the PRE does indeed have an ideology," he said.

He maintains that populism is an invention of bourgeois politics. A Spanish political theorist and essayist, Alvarez Junco, has concluded that the so-called "ideologisms" are nothing but the products, in practice, of populism.

"In our national political reality, those who are making charges of populism are precisely those politicians who have 'climbed aboard' (embarked upon) populism in order to have a political presence in Ecuador," the new candidate stated.

But what is this ideology? Proano Maya answered that "we are a humanist party. We believe that man is the focus of political action. We defend a national liberation program, because the goals of a political party must be basically national, democratic, and popular."

He added that "we are a party with a belief in an economy focused on the basic needs of man, because if a government is not capable of satisfying the fundamental needs of the people, at a minimum, it is a government which will end in collective frustration."

No Problems With Military

Proano does not believe that if the PRE wins power, any disagreements will develop with the Armed Forces (FFAA) like that which led to the 1985 episode. On that occasion, Bucaram had to flee the country to escape persecution by the military institution after he accused it of having spent more than half of the budget on parades.

In Proano's view, "The sovereign decision of the people belongs to the institution of the Armed Forces, and as a result, when the people decide to elect their government officials, this power of decision belongs to the FFAA as

well, because peoples who do not hold democratic elections have no obligations, and in the end they become peoples without rights."

The democracy in Ecuador must be consolidated through its institutions, because despite the adolescent crisis through which it has passed in these 11 years, there is a collective conviction that democracy is a great national goal with which no one should interfere.

Development Plans

With regard to the role the vice president plays as head of the CONADE [National Council for Development], Proano maintains that this institution is the body and soul of the country because of its representative nature, although he is persuaded that the development plans have failed.

His reasons for this belief include the lack of coordination between the planning body and those responsible for execution. There is no follow-up or evaluation of these plans, and sometimes the operational plans for the general program are not approved. And, finally, there are no plans for financing.

It is not possible today to govern on the basis of the good or evil genius of presidents, or on the basis of prognoses. Instead there must be diagnoses of the national reality. If a government is not organized, it cannot organize the country, and planning means precisely looking beyond the facts and anticipating the future of the country, the candidate said.

Foreign Debt

In Proano's view, the foreign debt is the brutal protagonist in the contemporary life of the people, because it has become the new form of economic colonialism, while our peoples are at a painful standstill.

The international bank is subjecting us to a kind of servitude, with its demands for devaluation, ceilings on wage increases, higher prices for fuels, and austerity, Proano warned.

Asking a poor man for austerity is like asking a bald man to use shampoo. "We demand the humanization of development—that the industrialized countries and the foreign banks contain their greed and realize that the hunger of millions of human beings is something which cannot wait," he said in conclusion.

Paraguay

Government Decree Suggests National Assembly Date

Executive Branch Given New Powers

PY0801170291 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 7

[Decree No. 8251 issued by the executive branch in Asuncion on 7 January]

[Text] By virtue of Article 221 of the Constitution, and

Whereas: Article 220 of the Constitution confers on the president of the Honorable Senate the chairmanship of the National Assembly, which is designed to decide whether the Constitution should be partially or totally amended,

Article 221 conveys upon the executive branch and any of the houses of Congress the right to initiate the constitutional process to call the National Assembly, a call that necessarily has to be made by the Senate president in the capacity established by Article 220,

The executive branch has time and again publicly announced its decision to initiate this process, either on its own or in conjunction with any of the houses of the National Congress,

The date set for the National Assembly meeting should not affect already scheduled activities of the branches of government and the political timetable. These reasons have led the executive branch to suggest the first week of April 1991 as the date for installation of the National Assembly.

Therefore,
The president of the Republic of Paraguay decrees:

Article 1. Let the president of the Honorable Senate be informed, in his capacity as National Assembly chairman, that the executive branch has exercised its constitutional right to initiate convocation of the National Assembly, which will have to decide whether the Constitution must be partially or fully amended, at the date suggested in the previous portion of this decree.

Senate President Resigns Over Decree

PY0801161291 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] This morning Senator Waldino Ramon Lovera tendered his irrevocable resignation as Senate president and National Assembly chairman. He presented his resignation in writing to Senator Carlos Zayas Vallejos, chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee, and personally informed President Andres Rodriguez of his decision.

Later, in a news conference at the Legislative Palace, Lovera explained the reasons behind his resignation.

[Begin recording] [Lovera] As you know, yesterday I called a news conference for today at 0930 to announce, based on well-founded reasons, the date chosen by the National Assembly chairman for a meeting of the Assembly. At noon yesterday I was informed of an executive branch decree that, in my opinion, is ethically detrimental to my duties as National Assembly chairman.

In light of this difficult situation, I had to make a difficult decision. I have decided to tender my irrevocable resignation from my post as National Congress president, and obviously, from that of National Assembly president.

If you will allow me, I will read you the text of the letter of resignation: Asuncion, 8 January 1991. Mr. Chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee, I have the honor of informing you that I am hereby tendering my resignation as president of the honorable Senate. My decision stems from the wording of executive branch Decree No. 8251, issued yesterday, which is ethically detrimental to my duties as National Assembly chairman. My resignation is irrevocable. Sincerely yours. This note is addressed to Senator Carlos Zayas Vallejos, chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee, and will be delivered right after this news conference.

[Unidentified reporter] Was any progress made during your meeting with President Rodriguez? Did you reach any agreement there?

[Lovera] Well, I informed the president of the Republic of my irrevocable decision to tender my resignation as National Congress president, as my letter says, in light of the wording of the decree issued yesterday, which I consider detrimental to my duties as National Assembly chairman.

[Reporter] What was the president's reply?

[Lovera] I have practically nothing else to add. I want to thank you and I wish my successor better luck than I had in this very delicate function, in this very delicate process of institutional organization. [end recording]

Peru

Security Measures 'Doubled' at Lima's Airport

PY0801235291 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Security measures have been doubled since this morning at the Jorge Chavez International Airport following the dramatic event that occurred yesterday when a hijacker seized a plane of the Peruvian Faucett Airlines with 125 passengers on board.

This dramatic episode ended three hours later when a national police officer, disguised as a maintenance technician, killed the hijackers. Two airport security members were injured during the violent shoot-out. Police spokesmen said today that the hijacker has not yet been fully identified because two voter registration cards with different names were found in his possession. It is believed that the two voter registration cards were forged. One of them has the photo of the hijacker and bears the number 076855216. This card carries the name of (Jose Soto Ames), born in Lima on 6 August 1967, with residence in El Agustino District. The other card, numbered 06649798, carries the name of (Carlos Isaac Rodriguez Zurita), born in Trujillo on 6 August 1967.

Faucett Airlines have resumed normal flights. [passage omitted]

Jorge Denegri, who is a specialist in airport security, has been interviewed by Lima Television Peruana on the problems in the Lima airport and in the interior of the country.

[Reporter] Mr. Denegri, We have already reported that in the past week the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] had warned about a certain lack of security in the Peruvian airports. Yesterday's incident, which was made public by the mass media, proved this lack of security. What happens? Is this airport really unsafe? Was there a lack of safeguards?

[Denegri] Corpac [Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation] has not correctly implemented security measures in recent times. Early in 1986 a public bid was called on matters related to the security at the airport. On that occasion several personal security problems were mentioned...

[Reporter, interrupting] Lack of technical infrastructure.

[Denegri] Exactly.

[Reporter] Radio support.

[Denegri] Exactly. On that occasion a bid was called to provide the airport with closed-circuit television, metal detectors, weapons detectors, explosives detectors, alarm systems, and other equipments to reinforce the security at the airport. This project unfortunately was not implemented for reasons that should be investigated. Many of the problems could have been avoided if these projects would have been implemented at least at the Lima airport.

[Reporter] What is the situation at the Jorge Chavez Airport?

[Denegri] This airport cannot handle a tense situation. It does not meet the current requirements as far as security measures is concerned.

[Reporter] The airport has security personnel, however. I cannot understand how a person could be allowed to enter an airport, this time at the La Libertad Airport in Trujillo, with weapons and grenades. What happened?

[Denegri] Because of the small number of flights in the provinces fewer security measures are adopted compared with those adopted at the Lima airport. We can confirm that in more than 80 percent of the provincial airports the security is ineffective.

[Reporter] What are the unsafe areas at Jorge Chavez Airport?

[Denegri] They are well known. One of them is the access to the warehouse, which in turn gives easy access to the apron. This is a place commonly used by personnel from the oil companies and by some service personnel, such as fire fighters. The security in this area will have to be reinforced. Let me tell you that our airport, like any other is a public place and suitable measures should be adopted. We know that many hijackings have occurred throughout history.

[Reporter] Changing the subject, have the airport authorities adopted measures in case of a war in the Persian Gulf? A New York television channel has reported that Saddam Husayn will resort to hijackers such as (Ilich Sanchez Ramirez), alias the Chacal or Charles, who is a very dangerous terrorist. This channel said that terrorist attacks will be perpetrated against international airports. Have any measure been adopted considering that U.S. airplanes operate in Peruvian airports?

[Denegri] I would dare to say that no measures have been adopted. Carlos, the famous Venezuelan terrorist has carried out terrorist activities throughout the world [words indistinct]. He is a sort of international mercenary. The United States has properties all over the world. This was also the main reason for the telex that the FAA has circulated among the U.S. airports. One of the main objective of the telex was to report that correct security measures are not being implemented at Jorge Chavez Airport to prevent terrorist attacks. I have a copy of this telex which reports the ineffective security measures at the Lima international airport.

[Reporter] It seems that this report was released by the International Commercial Aviation Bureau to which the Peruvian aviation belongs. Could this organization declare Peruvian airports unsafe and close them?

[Denegri] That could happen. This organization, of which Peru and other 164 countries are members, is empowered to do that. It is possible for this airport, and others which do not comply with certain security measures, to be closed.

[Reporter] What airport could Peru use?

[Denegri] If this shocking and undesirable measure is adopted Peru could use the Pisco airport, which is currently used in case of emergencies, or any other international airport available in our territory.

[Reporter] We hope this will not occur. The Peruvian authorities have been told to solve this international problem.

New Fishing Minister Expelled From APRA

PY0801133891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] New Fishing Minister Felix Canal Torres has been expelled from the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party. According to APRA Discipline Secretary Jose Palomino, Canal was expelled for disobeying the party's supreme order not to participate in the Change 90 administration.

* Shining Path Expert on Countersubversion Plans

91WR0054A Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11, 12 Oct 90

[Interview with Gustavo Gorriti Ellenbogen by Pedro Salinas; place and date not given; first paragraph is EXPRESO introduction]

[11 Oct 90 p 4]

[Text] Gustavo Gorriti Ellenbogen, a newspaperman and correspondent for various foreign journals, is without a doubt one of the scholars with the most extensive understanding of the development of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path] (SL) movement. In the lengthy interview he granted to EXPRESO, the author of "The Shining Path—The Story of the Age-Old War in Peru" notes the urgency of the need to reorient the political conduct of the war.

[Salinas] There is concern about the increase in political violence and the lack of an overall and consistent antisubversive strategy. This, as Jaime de Althaus said (31 October 1990), has become the Achilles heel of the government's policy. In your opinion, how is the counterinsurgency war going?

[Gorriti] Badly. Allow me to make a comparison which would not be very obvious. Adequate internal defense involves the same problems and demands as the performance of a symphony. Above all, a symphony needs a score—that is, a plan. In addition to the score, there must be a competent orchestra conductor. With a mediocre conductor, however fine the score may be, the performance will be poor. The conductor's role is the role the man in charge of internal defense should play. Then, in playing a symphony, joint execution by all of the instruments in the orchestra is vital. An organized performance—by each and every player—oriented toward the common goal is basic. This is even true of the soloists. A single instrument which is off pitch will spoil the entire symphonic performance. I believe that this lengthy metaphor illustrates the requirements involved in a consistent internal defense strategy.

Shining Path Offensive

[Salinas] The recent armed actions by the SL seem to denote the initiation of a new stage in the Senderist offensive. Is it possible that the SL is reorganizing its strategy for attack in the war it is waging against the Peruvian state?

[Gorriti] The methodology being used by the Shining Path or the Communist Party of Peru (as it calls itself) for insurrection now is basically the same as when its members launched the war in 1980. The alterations in the events which have occurred are the results of their relative progress in developing the insurrection. The plans and actions of the SL correspond to progressive stages.

[Salinas] In what stage would the SL be now?

[Gorriti] During these years, it has tried to convert guerrilla zones or bases of support into operational zones, and has partly succeeded. These zones cover a territorial area which represents the greater part of the Andean ridge, with transverse projections into the coastal valleys, toward metropolitan Lima, and toward the east in various parts of the high forest—basically, in Alto Huallaga. And recently, in the forest in Junin, in the Ene and Tambo Valleys, in particular. A temporary base of support, according to the classic Maoist definition (modified by the Peruvian practice), is a region in which the administrative and countergovernmental structure of the SL has succeeded in substantially displacing the Peruvian state, and in which the SL has become the de facto government. In this new stage, the SL is seeking to consolidate its control over the bases of support, and to make the transition to the state of open control by means of what they call open popular committees. And, in the military sector, to create units of greater operational importance in the rural sector.

[Salinas] What does this mean?

[Gorriti] It means creating larger and better armed groups in the rural sector, with greater firepower and greater capacity to maneuver and to initiate the "war of movements." The purpose of all this is to expand political-administrative control over new zones. And within the cities (as is the case with Lima), there is a process of amassing forces in the zones in which the SL has the greatest presence. This accumulation of strength is not being reflected in a proportional number of actions, which leads me to believe that what is more probably happening is the development of reserves for surprise use in the future.

Geographic Location

[Salinas] In its development, the SL has combined two types of actions with very specific objectives. First, in order to have an impact on the political scene, and second, to establish itself even further in certain zones of the country. How is the SL operating and situating itself geographically on the national level?

[Gorriti] The zones in which the SL has the greatest territorial and administrative control are Huamachuco, Santiago de Chucho, the Conchucos Corridor, the La Libertad Mountains, some high provinces in Huanuco and a large part of Alto Huallaga, the Ene and Tambo Valleys, a good part of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, and some provinces in Puno.

[Salinas] How are the SL and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] distributed in the Alto Huallaga and Huallaga Central zones?

[Gorriti] The MRTA has a presence extending to a point a little south of Tarapoto. Toward the north, the SL has pushed the MRTA out. In 1984, the MRTA tried to compete with the SL for territory (in Cusco, Huancavelica, and Junin), and for a time it was the predominant force in Alto Huallaga. At present, the MRTA has been virtually forced out of Alto Huallaga. It seems to have consolidated its presence in the central and northern zone of San Martin (around Tarapoto), where it does indeed appear to have popular support.

Lima

[Salinas] With regard to Lima, the SL has also been able to place itself strategically. The U.S. newspaperman Michael Smith (EXPRESO, 1 October 1990) described the districts of Ate and Vitarte as zones of primary value in the Senderist strategy.

[Gorriti] Michael Smith's study of the SL presence in the urban zones is very important. Ate and Vitarte are basic to the economic activity of Lima. The mechanism used by the SL in this zone has combined actions designed to control or influence the workers' movement with organized seizure or occupation by residents of the area. This last technique is the same one used in other zones, such as El Agustino, Huaycan, Canto Grande, and some places in the Northern Cone.

Michael Smith also indicated that the SL had succeeded in winning 100 positions in the secondary schools on the central highway, and he mentioned Huaycan and the community of Jicamarca as examples.

In all instances where there is territorial control, the daily life of the communities is organized by and around the Shining Path.

[Salinas] And in this connection, the authorities have done nothing to identify the Senderist teachers in these secondary schools...

[Gorriti] The authorities have done nothing about even more important things. For example, the conquest of the Ene Valley by the SL was indicative. The takeover was rapid and brutal. The ashaninkas had to submit or flee. The entire population of some communities fled, but there was no reaction on the part of the authorities.

The Senderist Strategy

[Salinas] Within the logic of the Senderist strategy, could it be said that the SL is trying to retain principal control of the military response by the state?

[Gorriti] A part of the Senderist strategy involves provoking the enemy into erroneous reactions. But this is only one aspect. The important thing for the SL is to continue growing in width and depth, in accordance with

a long-term plan carefully drafted for each of the intermediate segments in the Maoist "prolonged popular war."

Civilian Leadership

[Salinas] Within the context of the war, was it an error on the part of the government to appoint two military officers as the ministers of interior and defense?

[Gorriti] Yes, in principle, it was.

[Salinas] But...

[Gorriti] That is not the most serious thing. Since this is a political war, the military actions should be totally subordinate to the political goal. The war should be under political leadership and should be directed by a civilian. Particularly given the context of a democratic government, in which one of the goals of the war, apart from defeating the enemy, is to strengthen and deepen democratic society. Within this framework, then, to place one military officer in charge of the police and another in charge of the FFAA [Armed Forces] is an error. But the greater error, first of all, was the failure to understand that a war is being waged, the lack of understanding of the fact that we are at war. And secondly, there is the ignorance of the type of war being waged, the failure know the enemy and to understand his strategy. And thirdly, there is the lack of an internal defense strategy adapted to the survival needs of a democratic government and civilian society. These three aspects are basic, and they must be dealt with.

Unawareness of War

[Salinas] Why do you think that despite the 18,000 deaths reported, the awareness that we are waging an unconventional war has not developed in civilian society?

[Gorriti] In part it is because of this last factor you mentioned. This is by definition a small war. The increases in the erosion and deterioration are not easily perceived.

It is developing in an undramatic, slow fashion, such that even the victims are not perceiving what is really happening. There are other reasons. The instinct of Peruvian society for self-preservation is, as compared to that of other societies, extremely weak. Let me draw a parallel. As compared to the toll in Peru, the number of victims suffered by West Germany during the terrorist offensive of the 70s, or the number in Italy toward the beginning of the 1980's, was minimal, proportionally. In other words, to date we have paid a higher social cost than have the countries mentioned. However, the sense of alarm in those societies was exponentially greater than what is felt here.

Apart from having a dormant instinct for self-preservation, we are suffering from all of the problems resulting from our colonial bureaucratic tradition. This nation, which was historically the heart of the viceroyal bureaucracy (and thus centralist and court-like), created weak elite groups with limited executive capacity and a marked tendency to divorce civil administration from security matters, among other things. This is to a great extent why the leading classes have remained ignorant of the problem, as the opinionmakers have, as well.

[Salinas] "The conduct of the war should be in the hands of a civilian." Who drafted the strategy to be pursued?

[Gorriti] Civilian society as a whole. And within civilian society, it fell to the political class to assume responsibility. With the aid of the FFAA, of course.

[12 Oct 90 p 4]

Political-Military Commands

[Salinas] In the emergency zones where the political-military commands are to be found, how can military action be subordinated to the civilian authority?

[Gorriti] It depends on the nature of the counterinsurgency doctrine adopted. If the strategy of internal defense based on the British experience (as in the case of Malaya) is adopted, good results can be achieved. There a committee system was used, so that the state authority operated through committees which were headed by the civilian official responsible for the zone. Now, this was not always the case. For example, after the assassination of Sir Henry Gurney, the high commissioner in Malaya, it was a British general, Sir Gerald Templer, who conducted the war. However, this general clearly understood the political nature of the conflict, and he conducted it as if he were a civilian leader. Wearing a uniform is no impediment to conducting a war in certain zones, if and when one proceeds on the basis of the characteristics of the war and the society being defended.

Regions

[Salinas] Who should draft and pursue the counterinsurgency strategy in each of the regions—its president?

[Gorriti] The strategy for internal defense should be adapted to the conditions and characteristics of each region. It is a matter of using common sense. The strategy to be adopted in a poor zone like Ayacucho is different from that for Alto Huallaga. Strict application of a rigid counterinsurgency model to all of the regions of the country would be idiocy.

[Salinas] That is true in theory, but to date, no antisubversive strategy has been implemented in a focused or regional fashion, except for individual exceptions (I am referring to the General Arciniega case).

[Gorriti] It is true that there have been isolated cases in which an intelligent military officer has taken charge of a given zone, and within varying limits, has done well, as was the case with General Arciniega, as you mentioned. But in general terms, there has been no definitive

drafting of the basic strategies or the political methods for each zone of the country, or for the country as a whole.

Strategy

[Salinas] What would a counterinsurgency strategy consistent with democracy and respect for human rights be like?

[Gorriti] The answer to that is not easy. First of all, it is necessary to understand the political nature of the war and its goal—to reestablish the presence and the sovereignty of the Peruvian state in the zones under the control of the insurgent organization. It is necessary to destroy the insurgent movement as an organization, and to reestablish (or to establish) the prevalence of law and the democratic system. This means that the plan for combating the insurgents must be based on respect for the laws. It is a question of the establishment, rather than the breakdown (as has been the case to date), of legality.

To achieve this, nonviolent methods of action must be strengthened, systems of amnesty and compensation must be applied, the reincorporation in legality of the largest possible number of subversives who have surrendered must be encouraged, there must be selective military actions and efficiency in the intelligence systems, etc. On the other hand, it must be understood that in time of war, a democracy cannot function as a democracy does in peacetime. The laws must be simplified—including by means of constitutional amendments, if necessary—so that they will be functional and speedy. If we do not want the laws to break down, then we must adapt them to the circumstances in which the country finds itself.

[Salinas] Within the juridical framework you are suggesting we alter, could you specify what legal (and even constitutional) changes are needed in order to adapt to the context of war?

[Gorriti] There are too many of them to list and examine in the course of this interview. But in general terms, it can be said that the legal framework should be adapted such as to serve the internal defense needs, with as much simplification as possible, and even a willingness to accept the relative reduction of some secondary freedoms in order to protect the principal ones.

[Salinas] Such as what?

[Gorriti] Such as the right of free passage and the periods of preventive detention, for example. But the indispensable counterpart must be the confidence of the people and the basic institutions of a democracy. And these reductions and these special powers must be exercised strictly within the planned legal framework, in the absence of excess or abuse. Otherwise, the very concept of a democracy in wartime would be distorted, and the end product would be a clash between two tyrannies—the upper one and the lower one.

Human Rights

[Salinas] I would like to insist on these needed legal modifications. And to do so I would use as an example the now discredited judicial branch. The release of subversive criminals "for lack of evidence" in recent years has been notorious, and it may have been the reason the forces of law and order (when they arrest alleged subversives) have recourse to practices resulting in disappearances, violations of human rights, torture, summary executions, etc. Does this not seem to you to be the case?

[Gorriti] The inefficiency of the courts is the major underlying cause of the violations of human rights. But it is not the only one. Military and police incompetence constitute another. Corruption is yet another. And the most important reason is the lack of a democratic doctrine for internal war. The goal of the legal changes required would be to unite the various aspects of defensive actions. In other words, to link investigation and intelligence with arrest and capture, and these latter with court trial, court trial with penitenciary sentences, and these, in turn, with the rehabilitation and (again) intelligence programs. And these programs might possibly come under the direction of the judicial branch.

Of necessity, we would have to establish special courts with specialized judges. Perhaps the example of the Italian judges in their struggle against the Red Brigades should be followed. A small group of highly specialized judges directed the investigations, compared cases, handled the information, and with all of these elements, established an overall criterion, acted efficiently, and pronounced sentences justly.

[Salinas] What role should the civilian population play in the war against the Shining Path? To make the question more specific, how should the popular social organizations participate?

[Gorriti] On this point, great use should be made of the wealth of experience obtained by the legal left wing. I am referring to the base-level social organizations. They must be given greater autonomy and importance. The Shining Path was unable to penetrate Cusco, in large part thanks to the resistance of the base-level social organizations of the legal left wing. These social organizations—very often repressed in a fashion as stupid as it was wrong—have served as a support for the legal system.

[Salinas] To conclude, then, if the conduct of the democratic counterinsurgency war should be under the command of a civilian authority, should the president of the Republic establish some kind of specialized commission to draft and pursue the strategy?

[Gorriti] Yes. I believe that this would be the first step. And the contributions already made, such as the work of the Bernales Commission, which has been concerning itself with this matter for some time, should be taken into account. Other contributions include the work of

former senator Rolando Ames, the recent proposals made by Santiago Pedraglio, and at the other end of the political spectrum, the contributions of Fernando de Trazegnies and the former pacification commission of the Fredemo [National Unity Democratic Front]. But all of this should be preceded by a basic decision of a political nature. Does the war against subversion have priority at this time? Obviously it does not. For all practical purposes, political, economic, and even military decisions are being adopted as if there were no internal war in Peru. I hope that the reality will soon become a part of current perceptions, and that consistent and intelligent measures will be adopted.

Venezuela

Perez Receives Diplomatic Corps, Discusses Iraq

PA0901023591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The diplomatic corps and the representatives of international organizations accredited in Venezuela have presented their traditional New Year's greeting to President Carlos Andres Perez. As dean of the diplomatic corps, the papal nuncio delivered the diplomats' warm greetings to the president. The Venezuelan president said this year begins with many differing expectations and prospects because of the events in the Middle East. He reiterated that borders must be resolutely and firmly defended in all the countries because world stability depends on this.

[Begin Perez recording] When the possibility of a world without the fears of the cold war was presented to us, the Middle East conflict appeared, threatening world peace. I want to take advantage of the presence of the diplomatic corps to reiterate our request to the Iraqi Government to accept the UN resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait, a country recognized by all the world's countries which are members of the United Nations. At the same time, we ask the United States and the other nations which have forces in the region to, once the Iraqi Government complies with the UN decisions, also withdraw from the countries where they have stationed their forces in defense of a decision which we also share. [end recording]

Guyana

Sugar Production Hit Record Low During 1990

FL0401145591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1135 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 4 Jan (CANA)—The state Guyana Sugar Corporation's [Guysuco's] chief executive officer, Neville Hilary, has described 1990 as a bad year for Guysuco. He told workers inclement weather, production difficulties, and inadequate investment over the years were largely to blame.

The corporation which has management participation from the Booker-Tate Company of Britain, again failed to meet the European Community's sugar quota of 167,000 tons. It could not even touch the United States quota, said Hilary, from Booker-Tate. The state-owned radio station this week reported that Guysuco lost nearly 20 million U.S. dollars from the European Community market alone. The Community offers preferential rates for sugar—above those paid on the world market.

Sugar production this year fell to a record low of around 130,000 tons, which was 30 percent of production in 1976. The low sugar yields forced the Guyana Government to import sugar to satisfy local demand. The corporation had revised its target downward to 147,000 tons but still failed to achieve it.

The industry has also been hit by industrial unrest, with trade union leaders seeking a better pay deal for workers.

Suriname

Parties Agree To 'Tolerate' Army-Led Government

PM0801155191 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 5 Jan 91 p 2

[Unattributed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Surinamese Parties Change Course: Fewer Ties With Government"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 5 Jan—The three Surinamese parties, the NPS [Suriname National Party], the VHP [Progressive Reform Party], and the KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party], will have looser ties with the new government than was originally intended.

The leaders of the three parties, united in the Front for Democracy and Development, came to this decision under pressure from the NPS, the party in which the discontent with the Christmas Eve coup is greatest. Yesterday the Front leaders held consultations on the formation of a cabinet with Army leader Bouterse. The new Surinamese cabinet is expected to be sworn in on Monday.

The NPS, VHP, and KTPI will not put forward any ministerial candidates for the new cabinet, whose task it will be to arrange early elections. The Front leaders will only "tolerate" the new government. Shortly after the Christmas coup it was agreed with the military authorities that there would have to be consensus on the composition of the new cabinet. The NPS, VHP, and KTPI now want to maintain a greater distance from the new cabinet. With this change of course the VHP and the KTPI have gone some way toward meeting the NPS, so that the three parties continue to follow the same line. Many NPS deputies in the National Assembly have indicated that they want no ties whatsoever with the cabinet. This somewhat altered stance is partly due to the strong foreign reactions to the coup.

The three Front leaders and Army leader Bouterse have agreed to extend the period before elections from 100 to 150 days. According to a Front politician, there are no political motives behind the decision. The postponement is due to the Muslim month of fasting, because of which elections in April are not desirable. For organizational reasons as well, elections at the end of May are preferable.

Government Regrets Break in Venezuelan Ties

PA0501193791 Paris AFP in Spanish 1811 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Paramaribo, 5 Jan (AFP)—A Surinamese Government official has told the official news agency SNA that the Surinamese Foreign Ministry invited the Venezuelan charge d'affaires to the minister's office yesterday to express the government's concern over the measures that the Venezuelan Government has recently undertaken.

The Venezuelan Government suspended diplomatic relations with Suriname after the military coup of 24 December.

The suspension includes all bilateral agreements. Only one Venezuelan diplomatic official remains in Paramaribo to handle consular matters.

The Government of Suriname regrets Venezuela's decision to suspend diplomatic relations, the Surinamese official said, because these measures are in disagreement with the friendly and cooperative relations that have marked the ties between the two nations.